Daily Report

Latin America

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Tuesday
21 March 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-053 *21 March 1989*

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Cuba

Castro Tours Wilfredo Lan Culture Center

FL2003121589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] On Thursday, 16 March, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz made a working visit to the Culture Ministry's Wilfredo Lan Center.

Fidel held an extensive dialogue with the personnel working in that center and with officials. They analyzed various matters pertaining to the promotion and investigation of arts in the Third World, as well as the importance of the Havana biennial art festival as an event capable of presenting an image of the force and richness of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

The commander in chief stressed the need to approach cultural work in this area as another element in the integration of our regions resulting from the efforts to attain a new international economic order in the economic, information, and cultural areas.

Tripartite Meeting Begins in Havana 20 Mar

FL2003174089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Report by Alberto de Perez from Havana's Palace of Conventions]

[Text] At about 1130 this morning, the second meeting of the Joint Cuba, Angola, and South Africa Commission began in Havana's Palace of Conventions. The commission was created as a result of the Tripartite Agreement on southwest Africa which was signed at the United Nations on 22 December 1988.

The late arrival this morning of part of the South African delegation required that country to request a recess this morning to put their affairs in order.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and includes Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban vice foreign minister. The Angolan delegation is headed by Vice Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura while the South African delegation is headed by Neil Van Heerden, director general of the Foreign Ministry of the Pretoria government. The USSR and the United States are participating in the talks as observers and are represented, respectively, by Vyacheslav Ustinov, Soviet ambassador at large, and Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

This commission held its first meeting in Luanda last month and in accordance with its statutes, it is meeting now in Havana and will meet next month in Cape Town. The meetings are being held according to the alphabetical order of the countries' names.

Additional importance is placed on the meeting that began this morning in Havana's Palace of Conventions because within exactly 11 days, the process of decolonizing Namibia will begin when UN Security Council Resolution 435 becomes effective. As of that date, and in accordance to the Tripartite Agreement, South Africa should begin to withdraw its occupying troops from Namibia. Once Namibia has attained its independence, it will join the commission as a member.

It is expected that the sessions that began today will continue until tomorrow afternoon, Tuesday.

Held in 'Positive' Atmosphere

FL2003225689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2202 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] In the midst of a positive and constructive atmosphere, the second session of the Angola-Cuba-South Africa Commission has discussed during its first day meeting the UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia. This was reported by Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesperson for the Cuban delegation at this meeting. The objective of the meeting is to facilitate the solution to any problem in the execution of the UN agreements reached on 22 December 1988 on Southwest Africa.

Radio Reloj also found out through a source close to the U.S. delegation that the direction the second joint Angola-Cuba-South Africa session is taking is to remove anything which could affect the progress of the talks. The analysis in this Havana meeting emphasizes the points that unite the positions of the three countries.

Delegation Arrives in Italy for Party Congress

FL2003125289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The 18th Congress of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], the largest in Western Europe, has begun in the Rome Palace of Sports. The event will conclude on Wednesday.

A delegation from our country is attending the congress. It is headed by Jorge Risquet Valdes, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and member of the Politburo, and Leopoldo Ariza, chief of the General Department of Foreign Affairs of the PCC Central Committee. The Cuban delegates were received in the Rome airport by (Giovanni Berlinguer), member of the PCI Directorate, as well as other high-level party leaders and the Cuban ambassadors to Italy, the Holy See, and the FAO [United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization].

Rafael Rodriguez Meets With Archbishop

FL2003125589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Yesterday, Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez met with Sao Paolo's Archbishop (Evaristo Anz).

During the cordial meeting in which they exchanged ideas, the Cuban official gave the archbishop a greeting sent by President Fidel Castro. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and (Anz) talked about the most important aspects of the economy and international politics. They also discussed matters related with the South-South Commission which both men integrate.

In Sao Paolo, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez attended the inauguration of the Latin American Memorial which was held on Saturday.

Raul Castro Tours Pinar del Rio Province

FL2003124089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has just ended a working visit to Pinar del Rio Province. There, he visited important production centers, social works, and youth labor Army units, and he talked with provincial officials and the people.

When summarizing his visit, Raul said: Fidel left the plains impressed with what he saw. I am also leaving as impressed as he was and as optimistic as he was with what he saw in the mountains. [as heard]

Commission To Organize Trade Union Congress

FL1803033089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0229 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] The National Committee of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] has created the commission that will organize the 16th congress. Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, was approved as chairman of this commission.

It was agreed that the committee organizing the workers' congress will also include Salvador Valdes Mesa, currently first secretary of the party in Camaguey; (Francisco Duran Jarbet), secretary general of the National Trade Union of Culture Workers; and Marta Cabrisas, second secretary of the National Union of Construction Workers. This organizing committee will soon be complete with the nomination of the rest of its members.

Comrades Roberto Veiga and Rene Penalver, who up until the time of this meeting held the positions of CTC secretary general and second secretary, respectively, will continue to cooperate in the work preparing for the congress.

Cultural Workers Trade Union Elects Officers

FL2103014589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The Sixth Special Plenum of the National Cultural Workers Trade Union was held this afternoon. The important meeting was held at the Ernest Tellman Theatre of the CTC. Changes in the secretariat of the trade union were reported in compliance with a request from the party.

Pedro Ross [Leal], secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, who was recently elected as chairman of the organizing committee for the CTC 16th Congress spoke about the importance of taking the workers' movement toward its successful culmination in the great event for the Cuban workers.

Luis Fernandez Perez was approved as secretary general of the Cultural Workers Trade Union; up until that moment, that post had been held by Francisco Duran who was promoted to member of the organizing committee for the 16th Congress. Agustin Delgado Rodriguez was elected as second secretary, and (Ada Benitez) was elected as member of the secretariat for the area of work organization, salaries, and labor matters.

Radio Responds to People Who 'Betrayed' Nation

FL1803004189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0008 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Read by Daniel Torres, host of "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Among the volumes of correspondence sent to Rebelde's "Exclusivo" program, we have received isolated letters from abroad in which old, resentful people, who betrayed their country, attempt to applaud what they erroneously perceive as focal points questioned by this program. This group of workers has decided to make a statement against those feverish ideas expressed by those people who betrayed the land of their birth and thus also lost the right to participate in the construction and decisions of our own work.

In response to a call from the party, the revolutionary press is involved in what is know as rectification. Shoddiness must be rectified so that we can continue strengthening ourselves, to straighten out what is twisted, to be better each day. If we call attention to some aspects that could be better, if we argue, if we confront old concepts, we are justifiably fulfilling a militant and revolutionary mandate.

The communists, those of us who are involved in this struggle for a better and more just society, are the ones who have the right to criticize and to be criticized. This is an internal affair between revolutionaries and there will never be access or a place for those resentful,

stateless people, those people who were not brave enough to honor and dignify this nation, where a proud and hard-working people live and take pride in their leaders and victories.

Don't be mistaken with Rebelde's "Exclusivo" program!

Matanzas Supertanker Docks Ready To Use

FL2003134989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The deep-water docks of the Matanzas supertanker base were officially presented to the Investment Unit for use during the guarantee period for the French firm (Boyches) Offshore, which constructs these modern installations. The base has two mooring piers. The first one is for ships that can transport up to 150,000 tons and the second 15-meter pier is for ships that transport up to 70,000 tons of fuel.

PNR Officer Killed in Line of Duty

FL2103023489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The National Revolutionary Police [PNR] General Directorate reports that Sergeant Enrique Sierra Gomez gave his life in the line of duty this morning. He was 36 years old and had served in the PNR 3 years.

Comrade Sierra was stabbed with a knife when he went to a house located at 5503 Street 56 in Playa Municipality, because he had been informed that the resident of that house was being attacked.

Sierra was stabbed by the aggressor as he stood in front of the victim to defend her, as she had suffered serious wounds. After having committed the crime, Alfaro Hernandez fled. However, a few minutes later, he was detained by a patrol car with the help of the neighbors who revealed the direction in which this antisocial individual was headed.

The PNR is continuing its investigations, and upon their conclusion Hernandez will be released to the corresponding authorities.

Comrade Enrique Sierra Gomez was from a humble family. He also was a party member, worker, and an elementary school teacher prior to entering into the PNR.

Posthumously and at the proposal of the Ministry of Interior, the Council of State conferred upon him the medal for the Security of Internal Order.

Diagnostic Method Created for Detecting AIDS

FL1803024089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0045 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Interview with AIDS Researcher Jesus Benitez by (Belquis Joglar) during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [(Joglar)] Cuba has created a new diagnostic method for the detection of AIDS using genetic engineering and biotechnology which will be made available to blood banks and the nation's assistance centers in April. The new method was created by specialists from the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center who dedicate themselves to AIDS research.

Lic Jesus Benitez, member of the highly-scientific group of 15 professionals and technicians who created this new diagnostic method, tells us about its advantages.

[Benitez] At this moment, AIDS diagnosis in our country is being done on a two-system basis. One method is produced in our country and the second one is imported. The use of our system would put an end to these imports. The imported system would be substituted with our recombinant system.

That is the economic advantage; but besides this, our system could gradually be incorporated. That is to say all AIDS testing could be conducted using this system which is cheaper than the one our country currently uses. I'm referring to the one that is nationally manufactured.

In addition to this, this AIDS diagnostic system can be an important export item since these systems are very much desired throughout the world, principally in developed countries which have the money to buy it. Besides this, it could be a form of assistance to Third World countries and another trade opportunity with the Third World countries of Latin America. We could even consider a trade system based, not on dollars, but on a different type of exchange which would help unify our countries and would help in the area of cooperation with socialist countries with which, as we know, we have a trade system based on something other than the dollar. This would provide great support for those countries which, at this time, are buying diagnostic systems with dollars.

[(Joglar)] We would like to know what the possibility of failure is for this new Cuban diagnostic method.

[Benitez] Yes, as you were saying, there are two problems with these diagnostic systems. One is the case of the individual who is a positive AIDS carrier but is not detected and the other, which is no less tragic but is also a problem, is the case of the person who tests negative but is later detected to have AIDS.

Up until this moment, we have not encountered any case where a positive individual, detected by other systems, has not also been detected by ours. Up until now, we

have had 100 percent results. There is a small number of negative cases where the people become positive but this occurs in all diagnostic systems. In our case, it's less than 1 percent.

[(Joglar)] The AIDS research group of the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center will manufacture half a million individual testing kits of this new diagnostic method for the detection of AIDS which will gradually be introduced into our country's diagnostic system.

Seismic Network To Be Increased, Automated

FL1703230289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1917 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Specialists of the National Seismic Center, which has its headquarters in Santiago de Cuba, have reported that the local network currently unites five stations on the outskirts of the city. This year, the center will become the first automated seismic center in the country, added the specialists.

They said that during 1989, four more stations will be added to the network in the proximity of Santiago de Cuba. The use of automation will allow them to determine the indicators of seismic movements fractions of seconds after they occur, said the specialists. The information provided by the province's seismic network will guarantee more detailed studies on the seismic characteristics of the region.

During the second stage, the eastern seismic network will be automated and a regional subcenter will be created in Holguin. The national organization has 14 stations in the eastern provinces, Camaguey, and Pinar del Rio.

Need To Fulfill Sugarcane Harvest Goals Noted

FL1703185089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Once more, the sugarcane harvest has to get the maximum attention of all of those who are involved in it. Rain in the last few weeks considerably reduced the percentages of industrial yield. Grinding was at 72 percent during February's last 10 days and at 77 percent during the first 10 days of March. A gradual recovery is seen but grinding was below the national average planned, which is 85 percent for 20 days.

Of course, the situation is not dramatic or anything of the sort. It is part of the difficulties all harvests have no matter how efficient they may be. Nevertheless, one must not rest on one's laurels. The important thing is not to lose sight of the final goal that the country has set: to produce 1 million tons of sugar over the amount produced during the last harvest. It is not a slogan; it is a necessity.

Perhaps it would be convenient to remember that these last 2 years, and maybe the next 2 or 3, were and will be the most difficult ones of the Cuban Revolution in the area of convertible currency. The prices of our exports dropped, the currency of the countries where we buy became more expensive, and we were hit by a drought and hurricanes. Our sugar exports to the capitalist area were not only reduced, but the country has had to get 1 million tons of sugar a year to cover its commitments in the socialist area.

The country is determined to definitely turn around this situation and the current harvest is the point of departure. The conditions are present. This is why we make a call not to lose sight of the goal. It is a necessity—an exercise of national pride.

Bahamas

Prime Minister Leads Delegation to Meetings

FL1703195089 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Pindling, in his capacity as minister of finance, will be attending the 30th annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank and the 4th annual meeting of the Inter-American Investment Corporation next week.

Pindling and his delegation will leave the country this weekend for Amsterdam, Netherlands, where the meetings will be held. During the meetings, Prime Minister Pindling and the president of the Inter-American Development Bank are expected to sign the $6 million loan earmarked for the Bahamas Development Bank which was recently approved by Parliament and a technical agreement in connection with that loan.

Haiti

Avril Asks Justice Ministry To Control Prisons

FL2003214789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Information announced last 17 March, that in a letter sent to the Justice Minister on 13 March, General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, asked him to take the necessary measures to have responsibility for the prisons taken away from the Army and given to the Justice Ministry. In that same letter, Gen Avril asked Justice Minister Ceme to effect a serious reform in the Haitian court system. [passage omitted]

Committee Presents Constitutional Crisis Report

FL2003220989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The parliamentarians—the deputies and senators issuing from the 17 January 1988 elections—also reacted as soon as this decree was issued

on Monday, 13 March 1989, summoning a special session for Thursday 16 March to pronounce themselves on what they termed a constitutional crisis. [passage omitted]

In an interview with RTNH, the leader of the MDU [Movement for Democratic Unity] Maurepas Auguste pronounced himself on the position taken by these senators and deputies issuing from the elections of 17 January 1988. Here is Maurepas Auguste once again.

[Begin Auguste recording] [Passage omitted] Who gave them power? Namphy and Regala! The whole election was rigged. Everyone knows that Namphy and Regala appointed people. There is a guy from Port-de-Paix who was appointed senator, for example, who just 3 days before the election wasn't even a candidate! [passage omitted] They [Namphy and Regala] chose their people. I would say 99 percent. There are a few people among them who would have been elected in a free election, but they are rare. [passage omitted] We shouldn't mess around with serious matters! Especially since, I tell you, what these men are trying to do is to create a dangerous state of confusion in Haiti, because as you know, the population of this country is 80 percent illiterate. There are many people who do not understand many things. Therefore, by coming back on the scene like that, they are poisoning an atmosphere that requires—rather—serenity, calm, and peace, so that we can at last go quickly to those unfettered and honest elections that the people have been asking for for years. [end recording] [passage omitted]

A committee was formed during that informal session [of the 44th legislature] held at the Holiday Inn on 16 March. This committee is supposed to present a report on the constitutional crisis at the next meeting, which has been set for 1100 tomorrow, 21 March, 1989. We remind listeners that they are again supposed to meet in front of the Legislative Palace—where, they say, should they find the door to the building shut again, they will hold their session in front of the Legislative Palace.

Many observers are wondering how these men are going to get any laws they may write (?enforced), and who is going to pay them—especially since many of them became Namphy's development advisors after his 19 June 1988 coup. Thus, many observers feel these men have no credibility before the Haitian people, especially since they were the result of an election on 17 January that was not at all credible.

AJH on Deadlines for Investigating Committee

FL2003214189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Justice Ministry has summoned for next 23 March the associations and organizations that were supposed to send representatives to form the second investigating committee on the 29 November 1987 massacre. This summons comes 4 months after the government decided to conduct a new investigation.

(Dischler Marcelin), the secretary general of the AJH [Haitian Journalists Association] thinks the deadline set for a response to the matter of the creation of an election council and this meeting with the Justice Ministry are too close together, and the time allotted is too short.

The deadline for sending [candidates to] members of the election council is 22 March, and the meeting with the Justice Minister on the formation of the second investigating committee is 23 March.

They don't see why this is the deadline, nor why the days are so close together like that. [passage omitted]

Soleil Correspondent Denounces Death Threats

FL2003212789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in Thiotte is going to give us some news and among the news he gives, he is going to talk to us about attempts to kill him because of the news he reports about the Thiotte and (Bodary) area and the entire southeast. Let's listen to him.

[Begin recording] [Eugene Jean, correspondent] The committee of (Idapodet), which is the Union of Associations for the Development of Thiotte [Inyon dez Asosyasyon Pou le Developman Thiotte] denounces the behavior of Thiotte magistrate Millery Pierre, who is allegedly plotting against Gaston Tanis who owns a house (?near) the Thiotte marketplace. Tanis has proper documents, and decided to fence in his house. Pierre won't let him. We interviewed a member of the committee, Jean-Robert Jean-Baptiste. [passage omitted]

[Jean-Baptiste] Ever since Thursday, when Mr Tanis returned with the materials with which to fence in his land on which he has built his house, there has been a rumor circulating that Millery is planning to kill him, because he is going to fence in a piece of land that he bought. Now we find this serious—for a magistrate like Millery, whom the people never acknowledged, to continue abusing authority like that! [passage omitted]

No one recognizes Millery as magistrate of Thiotte. [passage omitted] Since Millery's "right arms" are Lherisson, Jaures Leveque, and Rony Gilot [alleged macoutes], there was crooked wheeling and dealing. They came and arrested him and took him away, and after a week or so, they sent him back as magistrate. [passage omitted]

I call the attention of the population of southeastern Haiti to a conspiracy to murder me by the big macoutes in (Bodary) that has been reported. I am informing all the peasants, everyone who is struggling along with me, of the existence of this plot to kill me—so that if I should ever be murdered, they will know who did it.

This is Eugene Jean, Radio Soleil, Thiotte. [end recording]

Thus, we reiterate: Our correspondent in the (Bodary) and (Thiotte) area, Eugene Jean, is in trouble in the area because of his work, because of his commitment to the Haitian people, because of the news he is reporting on the situation of the people in the (Bodary) area and the entire Southeast. There is a plot to murder him, and that is why he calls the attention of all the people of the southeast and of the entire nation to this plot to murder him being set up by the Tontons Macoutes.

Jamaica

Manley Terms Brady Plan 'Turning Point'

FL2003155489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1604 GMT 18 Mar 89

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Ottawa, March 18, CANA—Jamaica, the Caribbean Community's [Caricom] most indebted member state, on Friday welcomed a new United States proposal that promotes an international cooperative approach to tackling the Third World debt crisis.

Prime Minister Michael Manley, on a visit to Ottawa, said the challenge was for the world community to respond with "solid institutional and practical proposals."

The newly elected Jamaican leader discussed the debt issue with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and said both countries would pursue the matter with other commonwealth countries in the hope of reaching a common policy.

"I believe that (the Brady Plan) may be the critical turning point in dealing with the (debt) problem," Manley told reporters. "It may prove to be quite a moment of history..."

The U.S. proposal, announced a week ago by treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, supports voluntary efforts by commercial banks to forgive a portion of the U.S.400 billion dollar debt owed by developing countries. The Bush administration would like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help provide guarantees for the remaining portion of the debt.

Manley, who is on a nine-day tour of Canada and the United States, said the "significant thing" about the Brady Plan was that it had signalled U.S. acknowledgement for the first time that the debt problem "cannot be solved by purely conventional means".

The Brady plan replaces the Baker plan which had advocated the raising of new loans to refinance existing debt. Manley said while the Baker plan was positive in that it recognised the gravity of the problem, its weakness was that countries ended up deeper in debt.

Jamaica's gross foreign debt was estimated at U.S. 3.5 billion dollars in December 1986, making it the most indebted Caricom state. Next was Guyana with an estimated debt of U.S. 1.2 billion dollars.

Manley praised Canada for the flexibility it had shown in its aid policy to Jamaica. "Canada has been marvelously helpful in that some of the things which in recent years would have taken loan form, they have put in grant form so as to reduce the contribution this might make to deepening the debt burden," he explained.

Prime Minister Meets With IMF Officials

FL1803013689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 17 Mar 89

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Ottawa, March 17, CANA—Jamaica has started talks with the International Monetary Fund on a new medium-term because of a payments' programme to replace one expiring soon, Prime Minister Michael Manley reported Friday. It will be "an extended fund facility that would run through the rest of this year and into next year," Manley told reporters here.

The Jamaican leader, on his first overseas trip since his Peoples National Party (PNP) won general elections February 9, held talks this week in Washington with IMF officials. He described the discussions as "extremely positive" and said that the new government in Kingston explained its growth priorities and "the way we see it." He told reporters he thought the fund found the acceptable. "I think we're going to have a very constructive relationship."

Manley did not say how much money would be involved in the new programme but noted: "One of the problems we have with the IMF is that we are already above our country ceiling so one of the things that we have to be dealing with the IMF is that. Unless something happens we are going to spend this year giving them money instead of receiving money. So we've got a little small technical problem there."

Manley repeated that his government had no plan for a devaluation of the dollar for the foreseeable future, rejecting claims from his political opponents. "The basic position about Jamaica is that we are export competitive and once you are export competitive there is no reason to devalue unless there is some other major crisis," he remarked.

"There is no other major crisis. We are export competitive and what we aim to do is to try and make sure that we remain export competitive."

Manley arrived here Thursday after talks with IMF and U.S. Government officials. On Friday he met with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. The two discussed bilateral and commonwealth issues.

Drug Trafficking 'Major Threat' to Export Trade

FL2003153889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Ottawa, March 18, CANA—Describing the drug trade as "a dagger at the throat of our civilization," Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley called here for increased cooperation among western hemispheric nations in combatting the problem.

Manley, on a nine-day North American tour, told reporters drug smuggling posed a major threat to Jamaica's vital export trade. He announced that his one-month-old administration had moved quickly to tighten security around goods leaving the island by the creation of "sterile zones."

The scheme, implemented in cooperation with the private sector, allows for the pre-inspection of exports at the factory point. The goods are then escorted in certified containers to the port and loaded on the ships under tight security.

"We feel that can make a tremendous difference in controlling the problem at the source," Manley told a news conference on Friday. "It can also mean that if something happened perhaps on a ship, you could say that seals were broken and you would be able to identify the point at which the smuggling took place."

Manley, who was in Washington before coming here on Thursday, said he was seeking further cooperation with the United States to improve Jamaica's interdiction capability to deal with the supply side of the drug trade.

As far as the demand side was concerned, he announced plans for a major public education programme starting in the schools to raise national awareness about drug abuse. "We're going to create changes in our school curriculum from the primary level through to the secondary level to the university level to talk about problems of drug abuse," he said. "We hope that this will stimulate a whole teaching profession to become soldiers in the struggle against drugs. We really are going to try all out because...if we can't stop it, we are going to be in deep trouble."

Manley expressed major concern about the use of the island as a transshipment point for cocaine.

Jamaica is a major producer of marijuana.

St Christopher and Nevis

Independent Candidate Withdraws From Elections

FL1903014589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2248 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Mar 17, CANA—Independent candidate Walter Wallace has withdrawn from next Tuesday's general elections in St Kitts and Nevis, supervisor of elections Eugene Petty reporter Friday. Wallace was nominated last Saturday to contest a seat in Nevis. The elections' supervisor did not say why Wallace pulled out of the race.

The two candidates contesting the seat Wallace has lost interest in are Leanard Flaharty-Small of the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) and Joseph Walcot Parrty of the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP).

Government Not To Observe Salvadoran Elections

PA1703161889 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1305 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] On several occasions, the Mexican Government has been invited to participate as an observer in elections, basically in Latin America. Yesterday, the Foreign Ministry announced it definitely has declined an invitation to participate as an observer in the 19 March elections in El Salvador.

Mexico's decision is based on its traditional policy of respect for the people's sovereignty; it believes elections in any country are strictly a domestic affair.

However, it reiterated its firm support for the Esquipulas II agreements to achieve peace in Central America, and it recognized the Salvadoran Government's democratic efforts.

Finance Secretary Visits U.S.; Discusses Debt

PA2003203989 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[By Jose Manuel Nava]

[Text] Washington, D.C., 13 Mar—Pedro Aspe, Mexican finance and public credit secretary, today asked the United States to put some substance behind its words about a new strategy to counter the debt crisis. Aspe said specific actions should be taken to reduce Mexico's debt.

The head of the Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretariat arrived in Washington this morning. His brief visit coincides with U.S. efforts to dampen the high hopes created by Friday's announcement of a new U.S. strategy on the debt and to meet with his U.S. counterpart Nicholas Brady and IMF and World Bank leaders.

One of the main reasons for Aspe's trip is to determine whether Brady's proposals are merely good-intentioned words that do not correspond to the Latin American countries' requirements and expectations, or whether they represent a real, in-depth change in the debt strategy.

Another reason for Aspe's trip to Washington is to convince the U.S. and international financial authorities and the commercial banks that Mexico's apparent economic stability does not make the negotiations any less urgent. Aspe also wants to counter the impression that "things are not as bad as they say" in Mexico.

A highly placed Mexican source says Mexico "does not have a vaccine against instability," adding that Mexican society's maturity "does not mean our nation will put aside its demand for fairness in dealing with this problem."

Mexican officials today tried to temper the Mexican Finance Secretariat's initial and enthusiastic reaction to the plan, which was issued in a communique in Mexico City.

A high-ranking Mexican official said "we did not come here with optimism, but merely pleased that the United States has replied and that the reply seems to coincide with the debtors' position."

"We must now look at the plan's content and specific and definite points, because some details at that level may change," the official said.

Aspe came to Washington for what has been described as a "lengthy meeting" with Brady. The meeting, nevertheless, was agreed upon by the Finance Secretariat and the U.S. Treasury before Secretary Brady announced his "reinforced strategy" to combat the debt crisis.

U.S. Treasury spokesman Bob Levine, who declined to disclose the details of the talks, said "the meeting was not the result of Brady's speech on Friday."

The Finance Secretariat communique issued on Friday states that President Salinas "instructed the finance secretary...to meet as soon as possible with his U.S. counterpart to establish the scope of Mr Brady's proposal."

A Mexican official who agreed to discuss the issue in private said "Mexico is pleased that the U.S. Administration is finally announcing a program that coincides with some of the Salinas administration's hopes," but, he said, "this does not mean that a solution is around the corner."

Mexico, he said, has said its top priority is growth, which will not be possible if three conditions are not met:
1. A reduction in principal and interest payments, which will allow Mexico to adjust its payments in accordance with the resources it must use on its urgently needed and essential development.
2. The assurance of a steady flow of resources to Mexico for at least the next 5 years, and the creation of contingency clauses to counteract sudden fluctuations in export revenues.
3. Negotiations that will provide medium- and long-term results, thus allowing the creation of a national development program.

The Mexican official explained that "there cannot be the slightest doubt" that "the so-called Brady plan is an important step in the right direction, but certain issues of utmost importance to Mexico must be spelled out, such as the specific amounts of the debt reduction and refinancing, contract conditions, and the dates when these things can be accomplished."

"The key to everything," the official admitted, "is to determine if the 'plan' is a result of international and domestic pressures or if, in effect, there are in-depth changes."

He said that in the worst case, Brady's speech pointed to "at least conceptual changes. Previously, we could not even talk about a debt reduction or the participation of international organizations," such as the IMF and the World Bank.

The official said Mexico may very well be the first country to eventually have a debt reduction program, but he warned that the country will not accept such a program at any price, and "we certainly will not be guinea pigs."

Mexico, he pointed out, has the "doubtful privilege" of being the first in the entire debt problem. It was the first to pave the way with the governments, the banks, and the multilateral institutions, and the first to experiment with debentures.

During his stay in Washington, which lasted less than 24 hours, the finance secretary also met with IMF head Michel Camdessus and World Bank President Barber Conable.

Aspe was the first foreign finance secretary to meet Brady after the latter's speech in which he explained that the debt strategy must stress debt reduction instead of promoting further debts, that the IMF's and World Bank's roles must be expanded, and that certain changes in U.S. bank regulations are necessary.

The finance secretary, who returned to Mexico City today, was accompanied by Guillermo Ortiz and Jose Angel Gurria, assistant secretaries of domestic and foreign credit, and by Miguel Mancera, director of the Bank of Mexico.

Ambassador to Japan Assesses Bilateral Ties

PA1703044589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Report by Raul Rodriguez on statement by Mexican Ambassador to Japan Mario Moya Palencia on 14 March; place not given]

[Text] Mexico and Japan will strengthen and enrich their cultural, political, economic, and social ties. The ambassador was instructed to consolidate cooperation with Japan and with Pacific Basin countries.

[Begin Moya recording] One way we will revitalize Mexican-Japanese relations will be a nearly constant exchange of high-level officials between the two countries. I believe that it is possible that this year we will be visited by Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita. If this visit takes place and if conditions are favorable, it is possible that President Salinas will visit Japan next year. [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN Announces End of Transportation Stoppage

PA2003130589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1230 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Attention: After a successful day of peoples struggle throughout the country, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command recognizes the work carried out by all our combatants who participated in the most recent actions conducted in various cities and towns, proving the capacity and power of our people in arms.

The FMLN General Command also announces the end of the national transportation stoppage as of 0600 on 20 March. In this manner, Radio Venceremos tells our people and all our forces that as of 0600 on 20 March, the national transportation stoppage has ended. We repeat: The successful national transportation stoppage ends as of 0600 on 20 March. All roads are opened to ground traffic in all the country's 14 departments.

We use this opportunity to greet all our combatants who made this transportation stoppage a successful measure. Another successful national transportation stoppage has ended.

Further on Election Day Voting, Violence

ARENA's Cristiani, Merino Cited

PA2003070089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0419 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Interview with ARENA presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani and vice presidential candidate Francisco Merino by unidentified reporters—live in studio]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening. We want to welcome you. We think the National Republican Alliance [ARENA] has won the elections. But what about your predictions about the election results?

[Cristiani] We think the predictions were right and that ARENA won the elections. Before holding a news conference a few minutes ago, we tried to make a national estimate.

We obviously have information about San Salvador, which we won by a margin of almost 2 to 1. However, we wanted to [words indistinct] votes in the department capitals and most important municipalities before issuing any claims. We chose a series of ballot boxes at random to assess the trend in each municipality.

[Reporter] What were the results?

[Cristiani] Nationally, we estimate we are in the 54-percent range. A short time ago we tried...

[Merino, interrupting] We have [words indistinct] which we received at approximately 1900, Dr Cristiani. Can you focus on this paper? I mean the camera.

[Cristiani] Well, we have been...

[Merino, interrupting] A little bit higher. Right here.

[Reporter] A little bit higher.

[Merino] At approximately 1850, we calculated 58 percent, with a 4-percent margin for error, for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

[Cristiani] You mean ARENA.

[Merino] Excuse me, ARENA.

[Reporter] ARENA.

[Merino] No, no, I am not [word indistinct]. [laughter] Well, that 4-percent margin of error leaves us with 54 percent. By receiving 54 percent, we exceed the 50 percent we needed. Therefore, shortly before 1900, we said: We are interested in knowing if a run-off election will be necessary. If no run-off election is necessary, then ARENA is the virtual winner. Our predictions are based on the figures received for San Salvador, as we have marked on this chart, which is taken from approximately 70 percent of the ballot boxes in San Salvador.

You can see that some of the figures represent 80 percent of the vote, which gives ARENA the victory. This includes the Roosevelt, Centenario, Bolivar, and Liberty Plaza Districts. Our figures for San Salvador indicate that ARENA has received 61 percent of the vote, Dr Cristiani. However, our adjustments for the interior, where there are different trends and a different percentage of voters, give us 58 percent—give or take 4 percent.

[Reporter] Does this mean you are proclaiming yourself the winner on this Canal Doce Television program?

[Cristiani] I want to respect the Electoral Code. Only the Central Electoral Council [CCE] can announce the names of the new president and vice president. We are only waiting for the council to confirm what you and we have anticipated. I think it would be next to impossible for these percentages to change, considering the available data. So I think there will be a winner in this first round and that a run-off election will not be necessary. I want to repeat that only the CCE can proclaim the winner.

[Reporter] Dr Cristiani, you have talked about the latest figures and the election results. What is your view about the 19 March election process, given that only 1 million of 1.8 million potential voters cast their ballot? What, in your opinion, happened to the other 800,000 voters? Would they have voted for ARENA or the other parties? What is your opinion on this?

[Cristiani] First, I would not dare talk about the total number of voters at the national level because this will be known when the last voting table finishes counting the votes. It is difficult to predict this because the voting percentage is higher in some municipalities and lower in others.

I will try to answer your question as follows: It is clear that the FMLN tried very hard to stop the Salvadoran people from voting. We want to talk about voting percentages in countries where there is no problem, absolutely no problem, for those who want to vote. We believe Salvadorans have proved that despite the FMLN violence and the problems they had to endure to vote, they have a desire for democracy that surpasses that of other people who have no such problems.

Referring to this, but without talking about exact figures, I want to take my hat off and salute the Salvadoran people because they have again proved their desire for democracy, their faith in democracy, and their wish to be free and choose their own future.

Speaking about those who could not vote... [changes thought] We could speculate a lot about that. It could be the result of the transport stoppage or it could be... [changes thought] We have reports that the elections could not be held in certain municipalities because the FMLN was attacking them, and continued attacking them until noon.

However, it is important to emphasize the following: The Salvadoran people went out nevertheless, and in the end they voted en masse. It is clear that the Salvadoran elections were marked by more violence earlier in the day compared with other years, but the number of voters was similar to that of previous years.

I wanted to say this because when I said my hat is off to the Salvadoran people, I should have added: The winners in this election process have been the Salvadoran people.

[Reporter] I would like to extend our welcome to Francisco Merino, who is already in the studio. Good evening and welcome. We have another question: We heard that the Democratic Convergence [CD] has reported that ARENA committed fraud. What is your response to that?

[Cristiani] First, I would say the CD should be more explicit, because we just came from a news conference that was being given by the election observers. The observers said this had been a true example of democracy and that El Salvador could serve as an example to other countries on how to hold elections, despite all the problems we have mentioned.

There has been, as far as we know, no report about irregularities at the voting tables. If anyone tried to commit fraud it was the FMLN. Yet the FMLN left as it should leave, with a bowed head and with its tail between its legs, because the people voted en masse. We have visited many voting tables. Merino went to the eastern part of the country; I went to the central sector, to Santa Tecla; other party representatives traveled throughout the country; and the activities at the voting tables and the voting centers were normal. In our opinion, no fraud has been detected in these elections so far.

[Reporter] How can the country and Salvadoran politics be reinforced by the fact that we will not need a run-off election? Will the country achieve more progress or will it be stalemated?

[Cristiani] First, an election process hinders a country's progress in a certain way because the people's attention is concentrated on election results. Second, an election always generates mistrust within some groups because no one knows who will win the elections. Our country cannot afford to have those people and those groups being mistrustful or anxious about who will win and what will happen in the future.

There is another important thing involved. We must set aside the political campaign and begin to seek to unify Salvadoran society. We must continue peace efforts—which were suspended by the FMLN because of the elections. The fact that a run-off election will not be necessary obviously means there will be no need to bother... [changes thought] This might be a minor thing, but the people will not have to exert themselves again or face further deplorable incidents. There have been some deplorable incidents with regard to the news media during this election.

There is also an economic factor involved. This is a country that needs its scant resources to solve its problems instead of spending them on an election. Let us keep in mind that the agricultural season begins with the first rains in April. The run-off election would delay a complete agricultural season in El Salvador. In sum, we must clear away any doubts and set aside the election issue. Salvadorans, all 5 million of us, must set aside our political ideologies and work together to solve our problems.

[Reporter] There are many expectations about what ARENA will do now. Many agree that we will be faced with a polarization of the situation, and that the situation will become more tense with ARENA's victory. What can we expect from ARENA's victory? Will the situation worsen?

[Cristiani] Definitely not. I intend to seek national unity. This, perhaps, has been one of the leading issues in all my campaigns, not just this one; it has been the basis of my entire political platform. In fact, we must seek that harmony and unity within Salvadoran society if we are going to get ourselves out of the hole we are stuck in.

Likewise, we have every intention of implementing a participatory government. One cannot be sectarian. That has been the Christian Democratic government's mistake. It always cast aside our different groups when dealing with problems that had to be solved by consensus among all the political and nonpolitical groups.

One example of this is peace. We presented a proposal and the political parties answered positively, thank God. For the first time in our country's history, all the political parties sat down and tried to achieve a goal—in this case, peace in El Salvador. That is what we want. We are not... [changes thought] Even though we belong to a political party, we understand there are other political parties, and we know the opposition is useful. A government will always try to avoid becoming the target of the opposition's attacks. The opposition must be loyal and constructive, and not rigid.

[Reporter] Doctor, let us not talk about the political opposition. Let us talk about the armed opposition. We cannot deny the FMLN's existence and a possible increase in its actions. What will ARENA's policy be concerning the guerrillas?

[Cristiani] We have categorically stated that given this new element, meaning the FMLN's possible participation in our democratic process, we must all exert ourselves because the process will provide an opportunity for everyone—including the FMLN. That is why we have participated... [changes thought] Merino led the ARENA delegation that met in Mexico with the other parties.

We can also mention here that the FMLN has issued some statements about ARENA. Perhaps the FMLN even said the opposite of what our political opponents have always tried to say. The FMLN stated that it was able to reach an understanding with ARENA because ARENA has a position that, although firm, is open and honest. People, and groups, are better able to understand each other when there is honesty and when there are no subterfuges or ambiguous positions. The FMLN has recognized that Merino's position in Mexico on behalf of our party had those characteristics. The FMLN spokesman in the United States, a Mr Saenz, even said they are willing to hold a dialogue, and added that perhaps it would be better to hold a dialogue with the newly elected government. They believed ARENA had a greater chance of winning the elections.

[Reporter] Does that mean the government—the new government—will first try to achieve peace?

[Cristiani] I said that [words indistinct] the first thing. We will obviously try to achieve it from the start, but there are also other things we must do. It was a big mistake to [words indistinct] to the solution of other problems. An overall government platform must be developed. The peace problem must certainly be solved, and it must be given the importance it requires, but we must not forget other problems while we try to find a solution to that problem.

There are many serious problems we must solve. One of them is to begin eradicating extreme poverty in the country. This can be done at the same time, and we feel the two problems are equally important.

[Reporter] Solving those problems will lead to [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] Of course.

[Reporter] The current government has been criticized because there has been no real policy to achieve economic stability and economic recovery. Will ARENA's government plan include such a policy?

[Cristiani] Yes, I think so. Despite the problems we face, and basing our views on our current economic index, I feel there are hopes for economic recovery. We must simultaneously seek economic stability and development. We cannot seek stability and wait for the rest; we must seek economic development at the same time that we seek economic stability. I believe there are economic plans that can help us achieve this, and I also think that in a market economy, if we promote a market economy, we can achieve both economic stability and development.

[Reporter] Your views of today's elections?

[Merino] I feel it has been another demonstration of the Salvadoran people's determination to follow the democratic path. Prior to the elections, I said the FMLN was going to try to sabotage the elections with a transport stoppage and attacks on some towns. This attitude does not enhance the FMLN's political and military position. Militarily, they have proven they are not strong enough to stop the Salvadoran people. Politically, they have shown the world that they are the ones provoking violence in the country and this violence only brings more violence.

Since 1982, the Salvadoran people have consistently improved their democratic nature. For the past few years, we have seen that there have been no complaints about the way the elections have been held. Last year, unfortunately, we did have a problem when some members of the CCE tried to alter the results; we contested the results and the law stepped in. It was then that the Supreme Court of Justice ruled in our favor. [8-second break in reception] under adverse conditions. However, today we have seen that the democratic process has improved and is being consolidated.

In conclusion, there can be only one winner; not ARENA. The winners are the Salvadoran people, whose efforts and sacrifice made these elections possible. Some observers mentioned that in some countries people will not go out into the rain to vote. In El Salvador, despite the rain, the people voted.

[Reporter] Based on the national unity policy you promote and the political opening we will probably see, will there be space in your government for today's political adversaries?

[Merino] Definitely. When we speak of national unity, we are including all the Salvadoran people. I think there is a very positive opening. [Words indistinct] this national unity effort must include all the programs aimed at helping the Salvadoran people. It is the duty of every Salvadoran of every political party to help make this national unity effort possible.

[Reporter] What kind of vice presidency can we expect?

[Merino] The country's problems are so large that they call for direct action on the part of all of those involved in government. We feel there are many social programs that must be implemented or improved. With an honest, capable, and [word indistinct] administration, with what little funds we may have, we can provide direct service to the community. During the campaign, we visited many areas of the country and realized that with very little effort, but much goodwill, we can really help many communities improve. We can also help them improve their health, work, education, and housing situation. This can be done through coordination plans within the framework of the government's general plan.

[Reporter] Cristiani, you mentioned earlier that there are two problems that should be dealt with simultaneously. Do you plan to emphasize one specific problem?

[Cristiani] Obviously it must be peace. We must emphasize peace, and we must try to solve this problem quickly. Even though something can be done to alleviate many of the problems that the Salvadoran people suffer from, these are heightened by the conflict. As I said earlier, something can be done despite the conflict, but we could do much if the problem of the war did not exist.

There is something else, perhaps not as tangible, but it is definitely not just words: national unity. As long as we have a government seeking confrontations with other sectors—(?Salvador,) you were probably thinking of the FMLN and that is why you mentioned this—we cannot make progress. I feel we have made progress in the democratic process, but there are still past problems that must be solved. There is much hate among the classes. On occasion, some people have tried to set the peasant sector against the agricultural sector and the labor sector against the business sector. This type of confrontation has always been encouraged while politicians seek confrontations with other politicians. What we must do is follow the example set by developed democracies. In those countries, once the campaign is over, there is one government and everyone is a citizen of the country. That is what we want to achieve; that is what we want everyone to understand.

[Reporter] There is speculation regarding an ARENA government's relations with the world, especially the U.S. Government. What kind of relations are you planning to establish?

[Cristiani] We have always said we want a friendly relationship with the United States and that we respect this great nation, which is a natural ally of El Salvador. However, we want this relationship to be based on mutual understanding and respect. I do not mean to say that the relationship must be based strictly on the sense of those words; however, we would like to stress that we would like the relationship to be one of mutual respect and mutual cooperation. We would also like to expand El Salvador's relations in other parts of the world. We give great importance to the Central American area. One of ARENA's main objectives is to seek Central American unity. We do not define unity as creating a single country, but unity in every sense while we each maintain our independence. Some Latin American countries have helped us, but there has been no real closeness. The EEC and Far East countries can also be very helpful for our country. As far as the United States is concerned, I do not know why there cannot be a mutual understanding. I truly think that is quite possible.

[Reporter] Some groups have expressed fear that there could be a so-called party dictatorship: ARENA controlling the Legislative Assembly, ARENA controlling the Executive Branch, and ARENA partially controlling the Supreme Court of Justice. What do you have to say about this?

[Cristiani] That is difficult to believe. I think it must be understood, once and for all, that our party is a political and democratic institution and that it will never support a dictatorship. We have proven that despite having a majority in the Legislative Assembly, we have always promoted a dialogue when important issues have been presented. I will not deny that there are times when a political issue comes up and the majority prevails, but in important matters we have always tried to include everyone. The budget is a perfect example of this. We wanted a properly drafted budget that would create no problems for the country. However, we always met with negativism from the Executive Branch. They simply said they would not discuss the matter; they felt they were right and would not accept a debate. We are not going to promote a party dictatorship. Our party is a democratic party and it will act as one. It will listen to the opinions and suggestions of the other parties. The PDC is not a force to be overlooked. It may have lost today's election, but it is still a strong political force; it has support and must be taken into consideration. All we hope is that the opposition will not be a stubborn, destructive, and rigid opposition. We hope they will be a loyal opposition. It is

logical that they should be in the opposition, but we should be able to sit down and talk to reach agreements that will allow us to make progress rather than be at a stalemate.

[Reporter] What will ARENA's stance be regarding the defense of its national interests in light of the fact that some U.S. Government sectors do not like the idea of ARENA being the ruling party, even though a majority of the people have voted for ARENA?

[Cristiani] We hope that the United States, and the rest of the world, will respect the will of the Salvadoran people. Everyone speaks of democracy; well, democracy is respecting the will of the people and not prejudging. There is no reason to say that if the Salvadoran people choose so and so, then we will have to break relations. The fact is, we feel the United States is going to respect the will of the people. That was the message Vice President Quayle brought on his visit to El Salvador. Vice President Quayle stressed that the U.S. Administration is willing to work with the party and government chosen in free elections.

[Reporter] Vice President Quayle is a Republican, but there are many Democrats who care about El Salvador and who want things to happen in El Salvador. I do not think ARENA will be against Dan Quayle's policy, but against the way of thinking of those congressmen who can really hurt the country's policy.

[Cristiani] What you are saying is quite true: There are congressmen who are against El Salvador. But in El Salvador we also have PDC and PCN [National Conciliation Party] leftist legislators who are practically supporting the FMLN.

It is difficult to reach an understanding with them. However, I believe most U.S. representatives and senators—and I have had the opportunity to meet with them on several occasions—respect the people's will. They have clearly stated their willingness to continue cooperating with El Salvador. They always establish, as a condition, that the democratic process must continue and that human rights should improve. We have no problem with that.

[Reporter] It is being reported that the FMLN's main strategy was... [changes thought] Given that the FMLN could not stop the first election, it will try to stop the run-off election. The fact that a run-off election will not be held will obviously deprive the FMLN of its strategy for negotiations. Merino, what will be ARENA's position given that a run-off election has deprived the FMLN of its strategy?

[Merino] This will perhaps prove that the FMLN has acted seriously. If the FMLN availed itself of the situation and pressured the government and the political parties, this would mean that it is not really willing to attain peace. However, this is out of the question because the elections have defined the situation, and we are willing to continue the dialogue process. A commission was formed of members of the legislative and executive branches, and the political parties approved, by consensus, an opportunity to possibily renew the dialogue as an expression of our goodwill. However, it will also serve as a guide to attain a consensus.

[Reporter] Did you agree to continue the dialogue under set conditions? Will you not change the mechanisms or other types of...

[Merino, interrupting] The dialogue between ARENA and the FMLN is not taking place because we do not want to harm the mechanisms. We left pending the proposal that we presented to the Legislative Assembly concerning the national proposal for peace and liberty to provide an opportunity for the efforts being exerted by the parties and to allow for a possible consensus with the FMLN. ARENA has gone ahead with this. In Mexico we had an opportunity to issue a proposal to reach a consensus; even to recognize the FMLN. We also managed to issue a proposal that served as the basis for the interparty discussions that were suspended because the elections were held on 19 March. The proposal also allows for the possibility of continuing the meetings.

[Reporter] Merino, (?there is also talk) about foreign interventionism with regard to the different problems that afflict our country. Therefore, how will national sovereignty be defended?

[Merino] I believe we should have the best relations possible with all countries, provided those relations are based on respect for self-determination. We have even tried to increase and improve our relations with all countries.

We must also emphasize the difference in the foreign governments' and organizations' relations with ARENA. Their relations with the new Salvadoran Government will have to be different. We are not the government now, so we will prove how much those relations can be improved when the time comes.

We will prove our words now that the campaign has ended, and the people will be able to ascertain if their choice in these elections was right or not.

[Reporter] Do you expect any surprises that might change the predictions or unofficial results, Merino?

[Merino] We believe the results are quite consistent with what we expected because they are based on figures that were directly supplied by our representatives at the voting tables. I believe the CCE should abide by the mechanisms established by the Electoral Code. That mechanism limits the council's activity to the processing of those results.

We know the other parties, and it is possible that some challenges will be filed to invalidate or question the results. However, we believe that the people, observers, and journalists will be the best guarantors of the process. I think the results will change very little or not at all.

[Cristiani] The number of votes could drop if several results are challenged, but I do not think it will be a significant amount, perhaps only a small percentage. [Words indistinct] for each municipality.

[Reporter] We want to thank Dr Alfredo Cristiani and Francisco Merino for their visit to Canal Doce this evening.

PDC Leader Yet To Concede

PA2003161189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1533 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Jose Antonio Morales Erlich, secretary general of El Salvador's ruling PDC, said today the PDC "does not yet recognize" presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani as the winner of the 19 March presidential elections.

Morales said Cristiani "won in San Salvador," but added that the results of the elections in the interior, where the PDC has traditionally had the support of the majority, remain unknown.

Cristiani, presidential candidate for the ARENA, proclaimed his triumph last night at a news conference during which he claimed to have won 54 percent of the votes throughout the country, according to an unofficial ARENA vote count.

Morales is the only PDC leader who has commented on the election results thus far. No government official has made any such statements either.

Sixteen hours after closing the ballots, the CCE had not yet begun the vote count this morning.

CCE Issues Preliminary Count

PA2003174689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran rightist candidate Alfredo Cristiani has won 54.96 percent of the vote, according to the first preliminary, unofficial report issued today by the CCE on the results of yesterday's elections.

The same report, which covers 131,832 votes, states that Fidel Chavez Mena, candidate of the ruling PDC, won 34.48 percent of the vote.

Third place went to Rafael Moran, candidate of the National Conciliation Party, with 4.68 percent, while leftist presidential candidate Guillermo Ungo won 3.45 percent.

Chavez Mena Concedes ARENA Win

PA2003211789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2040 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (AFP)—Fidel Chavez Mena, candidate of the ruling PDC, today acknowledged ARENA candidate Alfredo Cristiani's victory in the 19 March presidential election in El Salvador.

Chavez Mena also admitted that between 40 percent and 50 percent of the registered voters voted, which represents 900,000 voters.

The low voter turnout was one of the most important factors in the election since there will be a direct correlation between the level of voter participation and the extent to which the winning party is represented in the Assembly.

However, the guerrillas' call for citizens not to vote plus the transportation stoppage clearly affected voter turnout.

Chavez Mena noted that that this was the lowest voter turnout in the country's history.

First Official Results Issued

PA2003220489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2142 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (AFP)—The Salvadoran CCE today issued the first official election results, which confirm an ARENA victory.

CCE President Ricardo Perdomo said during a news conference that, based on a count of 576,339 votes, the results are as follows:

Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA)	53.81 percent
Christian Democratic Party (PDC)	36.59 percent
National Conciliation Party (PCN)	4.21 percent
Democratic Convergence (CD)	3.20 percent
Authentic Christian Movement (MAC)	1.01 percent
Democratic Action (AD)	0.43 percent
Popular Union (UP)	0.42 percent
Renewal Action Party (PAR)	0.31 percent

Rebel on ARENA Win, Turnout

PA2103014089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0003 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (EFE)—The low voter turnout in the presidential elections in El Salvador "proves that no party will be able to rule without negotiating with the FMLN," FMLN guerrilla Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez said today in Mexico City.

The guerrilla leader explained to EFE via telephone that approximately 50 percent of the voters in El Salvador did not vote, and "this proves the FMLN's political veto capability."

"Any party that tries to rule without negotiating with the FMLN is lost," she insisted.

Ana Guadalupe Martinez, FMLN Political-Military Commission spokesperson in Mexico City, said that the virtual victory of the ARENA "has proven that the Christian Democratic government cannot rule in El Salvador."

The commander added that ARENA's victory has "its positive aspects" since the PDC "will have to become the opposition and strengthen the political parties' efforts to achieve peace."

The increase in the number of political parties that advocate peace "will increase the pressure to achieve a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Salvadoran armed conflict, while helping the FMLN counter the progress of right-wing groups," Martinez added.

The commander emphasized that the results of the Salvadoran presidential election on Sunday "indicate that the majority of the Salvadoran people, at least 45 percent, support the negotiation and peace proposal presented by the FMLN to President Jose Napoleon Duarte in January."

The FMLN did not participate in the presidential election because its proposal to postpone the election and negotiate a new election framework was turned down.

Ana Guadalupe Martinez stated that the PDC's removal from power will strengthen the opposition's willingness to negotiate with the guerrillas.

The commander ruled out the possibility that certain ARENA sectors might have plans to reactivate the "death squads" because "the current political situation in El Salvador precludes that option."

Ungo Critical of FMLN Actions

PA2103035489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0213 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Ungo, presidential candidate for the Salvadoran left, said today that the guerrilla groups "made a mistake" when they decided to carry out actions against the election on Sunday and "badly damaged" the CD.

Ungo said during an interview with ACAN-EFE that "the guerrilla groups made a mistake when they gave the victory to ARENA in the first round.

Ungo accused the guerrillas of wanting to "suck from three teats"—abstention, voided ballots, and votes for the CD—and added that "these tactics could only lead to a low voter turnout, for which no one can claim responsibility."

The FMLN urged the people not to vote or "to void their ballots" in the election, which it considered "fraudulent and illegitimate," and decreed a transportation stoppage that paralyzed the country 3 days before the election.

"The transportation stoppage and the fear of the Army, which militarized the country, kept many people from voting," the CD leader, social democrat, and political ally of the FMLN asserted.

Ungo warned that "you pay for your mistakes" and added that "the FMLN did not tell us it would launch such a strong offensive against the elections," when he met with the guerrilla leaders in Managua on 6 March.

Even though he constantly referred to "tactical differences" with the FMLN, Ungo recognized that it is better to let "some time pass before talking with the commanders," with whom he expects to meet at a still undetermined date.

Even though Ungo criticized the FMLN's transportation stoppage, he nevertheless justified the FMLN's military offensive, saying that "it is a logical consequence given the parties' refusal to negotiate the guerrillas' peace plan."

He also predicted that "contradictions will increase and the war will continue" with Alfredo Cristiani as president.

Ungo did not appear particularly discouraged by the election results, but he denounced "the intimidation and threats" against leftist voters and admitted that the Salvadoran leftist coalition "expected 10 percent of the vote."

He added that the CD can still finish third with 5 percent of the vote, even though preliminary figures from the CCE place it in fourth place with 3.2 percent.

"The people of ARENA and the United States know that they will have to deal with us for certain things," Ungo said in referring to the prevailing political relations between the CD and the FMLN.

The social democratic politician did not share the FMLN's belief that the guerrillas will be able to negotiate with ARENA, which won the presidential election.

"ARENA is still fascist and the rich people's party," according to Ungo, who doubts that Cristiani will want to hold talks with the guerrillas.

Nevertheless, he said that the change in the Presidency "modifies the Salvadoran power triangle," which, according to Ungo, consists of the government, the

Army, and the United States. He added that the next government "will have more clout with the military and the United States than the previous one."

Ungo, who is also a Socialist International vice president, told ACAN-EFE that he is annoyed with "the limited resources" with which the CD faced the election campaign.

He said: "Some parties helped us and some did not." He did not specify which socialist parties he was referring to in each case.

Coprefa: 44 Die in Violence

PA2003162889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1534 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported today that at least 44 persons were killed and 37 wounded during clashes between rebels and government troops yesterday.

A Coprefa spokesman told ACAN-EFE yesterday that as of 1800, 37 rebels, 3 soldiers, and 4 civilians had been killed.

In addition, 28 civilians and 9 soldiers were wounded in clashes throughout El Salvador. Among those killed on election day were three reporters: two Salvadorans and a Netherlander.

Rebel Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez reported last night that the FMLN had attacked 20 communities on Sunday to show the rebels' rejection of the elections.

According to military and rebel sources, the election day attacks were one of the biggest rebel offensives in the past few months.

FMLN Claims 194 Army Casualties

PA2103021489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0025 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos will now give you a summary of the main military actions carried out by the FMLN on 19 March, a day of victory for the people.

The FMLN inflicted 194 casualties on the Army during 19 March military actions. We repeat: After compiling all the reports received at Radio Venceremos from all over the country on Sunday 19 March, our forces inflicted 194 casualties on the enemy in military actions carried out throughout the national territory.

These 194 casualties include: one pilot, three officers, and one sergeant. During the 19 March fighting, the FMLN seized three M-16 rifles, one M-79 grenade launcher, one M-60 machinegun, one PRC-77 military radio, three knapsacks, one Claymore mine, and many rifle cartridges.

In a single day of fighting, we damaged four helicopters. One of these helicopters was damaged in the fighting carried out by our fighters on the outskirts of San Salvador.

The sabotage against the regime's war economy on 19 March resulted in millions of dollars in losses from the national transportation stoppage that lasted 4 days. We also sabotaged the Omoma coffee processing plants in Ciudad Barrios and El Suspiro cooperative.

On 19 March our FMLN units sabotaged 57 primary and secondary electric power lines throughout the country. These power lines were downed, as were dozens of others within the past few days, in accordance with our policy of sabotaging the regime's war economy.

In what we have termed a qualitative leap in the people's war, as far as daytime combat is concerned, our forces fought in San Salvador, Santa Ana, San Vicente, Usulutan, Zacatecoluca, and other major cities in the country.

Radio Venceremos points out that the daytime fighting carried out simultaneously by our units in many different areas ruined the plans of U.S. advisers who tried, through the massive use of aircraft, to end forever our daytime attacks.

We march on to victory, fighting under the sun.

On 19 march we fought in most Salvadoran departments, including Ciudad Barrios; Sesori; San Luis de la Reina; Chapeltique; Chinameca; Jucuapa; Agua Caliente in Chalatenango; Santa Elena, where our forces seized the town for several hours; and San Francisco Javier, where our forces forced Army troops to flee, leaving ballot boxes in our hands. There were attacks on enemy positions in Berlin. Puerto Parada was seized in Usulutan. There was fighting in Cacaopera; Lolotiquillo; San Jorge; San Miguel de Mercedes in Chalatenango; Carolina, where our units damaged a helicopter; San Antonio del Mosco in San Miguel; Villa El Triunfo; San Isidro; San Agustin; La Palma; Concepcion Quezaltepeque; and San Salvador.

We welcome this heroic combat in broad daylight that mocks thousands of Army troops. There was fighting in San Ramon; San Antonio Abad; and Ciudad Satelite. We send greetings and congratulations from our General Command.

On 19 March we also fought in Tejutla, Anamoros, San Ignacio, San Sebastian, San Pedro Masahuat, Agua Caliente, San Isidro Labrador, Metapan in Santa Ana Department, San Ildefonso, Tecoluca, San Miguel Mercedes, San Isidro Lempa, Dulce Nombre de Maria, and Santiago Nonualco.

There were actions in Chalchuapa, on the Pan-American Highway, the Coastal Highway, the Military Road, the San Salvador-Santa Ana expressway, the Metapan-Santa Ana highway, and the Northern Trunk Highway.

Throughout the country, the people's armed resistance showed great strength in a country where there is a dual power base and where the emerging power is the people's power.

FMLN Condemns Newsmen's 'Murders'

PA2103011689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0026 GMT 21 Mar 89

[FMLN General Command communique issued in El Salvador on 20 March]

[Text] We strongly protest the murders of journalists Roberto Navas, Mauricio Pineda, and Cornell Lagrow, which were committed by the government's Armed Forces in San Salvador, San Francisco Javier, and San Miguel.

The gag law with which the news media was threatened hours before the election was the beginning of a preconceived plan that tried to restrict the media's right to freely inform the people, so the government could keep election fraud hidden from view.

The threatening atmosphere created by statements from government officials and military officers resulted in the cold blooded machinegunning of journalists in three different parts of El Salvador, thus contradicting the official version that the soldiers fired their weapons by accident.

The most abhorrent case is that of Netherlands journalist Cornell Lagrow, whose vehicle was chased and attacked by a military helicopter while he was being taken for treatment after being critically wounded by soldiers. Thus, his life could not be saved.

Such events contradict the Armed Forces so-called professionalism. They have a record of murdering journalists, throwing grenades, and machinegunning and bombing civilians.

We send our condolences to the national and international journalists' association and to the three journalists' relatives. Freedom of expression in our country will be achieved through the people's struggle, particularly by the national and foreign journalists' association, which is waging a battle to attain that freedom.

Consequently, we strongly condemn those murders and we urge journalists to continue struggling for freedom of expression and for professional and independent journalism.

[Signed] FMLN General Command
El Salvador, 20 March 1989

Military Explains Gunfire at Ilopango Air Base

PA2103023989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0211 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] We have received several telephone calls from people in the eastern area of the capital, particularly in the sector of Santa Lucia and adjacent areas. They reported hearing heavy gunfire near the Salvadoran Air Force's installations. We contacted military sources and they confirmed that gunfire and explosions were taking place, but they said that this was part of a drill that the Air Force carried out a few minutes ago at its installations. Thus, in an effort to calm the people living in the area, we report that military sources confirm that this is all part of a drill at the Ilopango Air Force Base.

Further on FMLN Preelection Actions

PA1503180089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] FMLN urban commandos destroyed a truck owned by Tropical Soda Company at approximately 0730 today on the main road of Dolores neighborhood.

The strong explosion, which destroyed the front part of the truck, caused minor property damage to nearby houses and to vehicles parked in the area. The information released indicates there were no casualties as a result of the explosion and adds that three young men placed the dynamite charge and warned the driver to leave the area.

According to residents of the area, a beer truck was also blown up 3 days ago in that same place. That truck was owned by La Constancia Beer Company.

In addition, an Agriculture Ministry vehicle was partially destroyed by a dynamite charge. The attack took place at the corner of Roosevelt Ave and 53th Avenue South near the Agriculture Ministry at approximately 0900.

According to a witness, the dynamite charge was placed by a young man who left in a white pickup truck that was waiting for him on the other side of the street. The destroyed vehicle belonged to the Agriculture Ministry project department.

Although we could not confirm this report, Agriculture Ministry employees asserted that a vendor walking on the area was wounded as a result of the explosion. Windows of nearby buildings and the windshield of another ministry vehicle were also broken as a result of the explosion. No organization claimed responsibility for this attack, although it was said that the PDC has been using those vehicles for its political campaign.

Another report stated that two gas stations were sabotaged by FMLN urban commandos in different parts of San Salvador, without inflicting any casualties. One of the gas stations is located on the road leading to San

Antonio Abad. A four-person rebel group placed a powerful bomb inside the gas station office at approximately 1600, causing serious property damage.

The office and equipment of the second gas station, known as Texaco-Los Congos, was also seriously damaged as a result of two explosions.

In addition, a public transportation bus was stopped on the road to Montserrat. The incident did not cause any property damage but did cause fear among area residents.

Official sources added that two paramilitary men were murdered by FMLN units early this morning in the northern end of San Salvador.

The report indicates that Angel Marroquin Hernandez and Jose Angel Flores, members of the Santo Domingo Canton civil defense, were abducted and subsequently murdered by the rebels near [name indistinct] Bridge, Guazapa Jurisdiction. In addition, three Treasury Police members were wounded during a rebel attack last night. The attack took place on Army Boulevard. Finally, a minor was seriously wounded this morning after urban commandos detonated a bomb near a power tower in Soyapango City.

FMLN Commander's Trip to Brazil Reported

PA1803044989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Our FMLN continues to achieve more diplomatic successes in Latin America. An FMLN delegation visiting Brazil was received at the National Congress, governors' offices, state legislatures, and other organizations. Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona presented our front's peace proposal to prominent Brazilian figures and organizations.

FMLN Commander Letona has just ended a successful diplomatic visit to Brazil. Letona met with different leaders from the ruling and opposition parties. She visited the National Congress in Brasilia. She also [words indistinct] state legislatures, governors' offices, and the municipal chambers in different Brazilian states. Commander Letona met with Porto Alegre's deputy governor and Rio de Janeiro Governor Moreira Franco. While in Sao Paolo, the FMLN delegation attended sessions of the state legislature, where they presented the FMLN's proposal.

In Brasilia, Commander Letona visited the National Congress and met with Chamber of Deputies President [words indistinct], who is also the vice president. [Words indistinct] Commander Letona met with the first vice president of the Senate and attended a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee [words indistinct]. During these meetings with the FMLN delegation, various state legislatures and other institutions vowed to come out in support of a political and negotiated solution in El Salvador to pressure the Jose Napoleon Duarte administration.

In addition to the meetings with political [word indistinct], Commander Letona met with different personalities such as the president of Brasilia University, labor leaders, women's groups, and solidarity groups. She also had meetings with major television and radio stations, which gave the FMLN delegation broad publicity on this successful trip to Brazil. Commander Letona granted interviews to major newspapers, including JORNAL DO BRAZIL, and [name indistinct], and (?FOLHA DE SAO PAOLO).

To summarize, [words indistinct] our delegation, the positive reception to the FMLN proposal [words indistinct]. Although Brazil had not been involved in Latin American problems, it has decided to play a more prominent role by showing its interest in contributing to finding a solution to regional conflicts, especially in Central America.

Radio Venceremos will be broadcasting an interesting interview with Commander Letona to explain to our people the scope and meaning of the FMLN delegation's trip to Brazil. We repeat: She met with major political, economic, and media figures of that important country in the southern cone.

Honduras

Soldiers Killed by Mine Near Nicaragua Border

PA1903125389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0530 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Mar (DPA)—The Honduran Armed Forces reported this afternoon that two soldiers were killed on 16 March when they stepped on a mine the Armed Forces believe was planted by Sandinist troops.

Military spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides said the dead soldiers are Corporal Elmer Godoy Valdivia and Private Misai Cruz Lopez.

The military spokesman said the two soldiers, who were assigned to the 9th Infantry Battalion based in Jamastran, in the eastern El Paraiso Department on the Nicaraguan border, were on border patrol when they stepped on the mine.

Col Suarez Benavides said the bodies were not recovered until the next afternoon, because Honduran sappers had to clear the area of mines.

The military spokesman said the Sandinist People's Army continuously plants mines in the area and that the Honduran Army must always has carry out minesweeping tasks.

The soldiers were patrolling in the area of Congolana in El Paraiso, which is apparently close to the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

On another subject, the military spokesman announced the arrival in Honduras tomorrow of 15 Hondurans who were released by Sandinist authorities after a decree was issued granted amnesty to over 1,000 former Somozist guardsmen. During the regimes of the Somoza family, several Hondurans enrolled in the Nicaraguan National Guard and were later arrested when the Sandinists came to power in July 1979.

FMLN Rebels Reportedly Train at Refugee Camps

PA2003152589 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 14 Mar 89 p 36

[Text] San Pedro Sula—Colonel Reynaldo Andino Flores, chief of the 105th Military Brigade stationed in San Pedro Sula, said yesterday that Salvadoran guerrillas from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] are being trained in Honduran territory within sight of international organizations, which have been patient.

He added that Mesa Grande, a Salvadoran refugee center, is the most problematic area for Honduras, because FMLN guerrillas have sought refuge there to recover their strength and receive medicine from the refugees.

Col Andino said the Army spends large sums to guard that refugee center, which also has been a source of additional problems for the country because a number of basic grain producers prefer to sell to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) because it pays better, making food expensive and scarce.

He pointed out that guerrillas dressed in civilian clothes enter these areas, where they prepare mentally and physically to join the Salvadoran guerrilla force. Unfortunately, he added, neither the Salvadoran nor the Honduran Armies can enter these areas, because international agreements have rendered them off-limits—and the limits of those areas have not yet been defined.

Col Andino affirmed that for many years Honduras has been a bridge for the transfer of weapons to El Salvador and Nicaragua, and that many of these weapons remain in the country and are used by small Honduran guerrilla groups that do not yet have popular support and are still in the preliminary phases of organization.

The military officer did not dismiss the possible existence of Honduran subversive groups in some mountainous areas but said that these groups are still very small.

"Those rebels do not yet have the people's support, because the people are alert after observing the examples set by Nicaragua and El Salvador, where brothers murder brothers," Andino said.

Referring to a report published in a San Salvador newspaper regarding the alleged capture of guerrillas, Col Andino pointed out that if this were true, there would be no reason to conceal the fact. "We believe—and have been informed—that there are small groups that operate in cities where they 'mingle' with the common people to carry out their misdeeds."

To conclude, Col Andino said that on 11 March a young girl arrived with head wounds at the Mesa Grande refugee camp. "They attempted to blame the Honduran Army, claiming troops had exploded a grenade, but that is not true, because we do not go there. They even made a tremendous 'show' of asking for a small airplane so we would be blamed, but we had nothing to do with it. I believe the guerrillas who arrive from El Salvador are the ones who leave or bring explosives into the center."

Army Dismantles Guerrilla Unit Near Guatemala

PA1703034989 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 13 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Rose Mary Torres de Gonzalez]

[Text] A guerrilla unit that operated in the Merendon mountain range, in the Omoa hills area, 100 km northwest of San Pedro Sula on the Guatemalan border, was dismantled over the weekend by combined National Army units.

Members of the 2d Artillery Battalion, Special Tactical Battalion, 2d Infantry Battalion, and 3d Infantry Battalion participated in the operation. According to local residents, the Army captured eight alleged subversives and seized supplies, military uniforms, and Marxist literature.

LA TRIBUNA visited Cuyamel, Rio Chiquito, Tegucigalpita, Comayagua, Cuyamelito, Potrerillos, San Carlos, Corinto, and Quebrada Seca in Cortes Department, where the people were obviously worried because they could not explain the military movements.

The villages were militarized on Tuesday last week while specialists in antiguerrilla tactics were deployed to "comb" the local mountains.

According to local residents, the eight alleged guerrilla members—who were captured and later taken by helicopter to the 105th Infantry Brigade headquarters in San Pedro Sula—reportedly included an old man and a minor. The people added that strange people come down from the mountains at sundown, reportedly in search of food.

The people stated that someone tipped off the police to the activities of the suspicious-looking persons who came from the mountains. Consequently, the Army set up an airlift. The landing strip was located in a clearing near the town of Pueblo Nuevo.

Military vehicles were frequently seen with soldiers coming or going to the mountains. "Painted-face" soldiers were seen going to the mountains, which they "combed" until they reached Pinalejo, Santa Barbara.

"The silence in these mountains was sometimes disrupted by shots and we were afraid. We had no other choice but to cover ourselves from head to toe," said an old man, who was too afraid to reveal his name.

During the day, the people mingle with the men in uniform, who sometimes stop people to ask where they come from and carefully search vehicles—particularly when traveling to and from the militarized communities.

Colonel Erick O'Connor, commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade, arrived on Saturday to inspect the area where the operation has been carried out. He refused to issue a statement when approached by LA TRIBUNA's reporters, but announced that the command post would issue an official report today.

Nicaragua

Government Announces Cordoba Devaluation

PA2103044189 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0412 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The cordoba was devalued less than 8 days ago. Nicaraguan workers have still not recovered from that blow, yet the Central Bank announced this evening that, effective tomorrow, each dollar will cost 5,500 cordobas.

The government had announced that the much-sought dollar will cost more and more because the cordoba will be gradually devalued. In fact this has already happened, and the effects have mostly harmed the poor.

The price of gasoline will also increase; each gallon will now cost 10,100 cordobas. Likewise, a 25-pound container of butane gas will now cost 13,600 cordobas; a 10-pound container will cost 5,400 cordobas; and a 100-pound container will cost 59,800 cordobas. Furthermore, diesel will now cost 7,300 a gallon; airplane fuel will cost 12,200 cordobas a gallon; and kerosene will cost 6,600 cordobas a gallon.

Radio Catolica To Resume Newscasts 27 Mar

PA1703204289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo has announced that the "Church" newscasts will return to the air on 27 March. He also said the station is hiring a news team. Although Carballo did not name the persons who will run Radio Catolica's news service, it is rumored that Fredie Rostran Arauz will be the news director. Carballo said his radio station's news programming will include morning and noon newscasts, as well as news breaks throughout the day. Msgr Bismarck Carballo, Curia spokesman and Radio Catolica director, regretted the fact that his station's newscasts are the subject of negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Carballo] Although the station's right to carry newscasts has been restored, we are disturbed that the measure comes as the result of negotiations, as it seems this is a [words indistinct], when in fact we have a right to carry newscasts. The radio station will begin carrying newscasts after Holy Week, because during that week our programs will be dedicated solely to religious topics. Moreover, we will have time to get our news team set up to begin newscasts on 27 March.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Carballo] We are going to meet with several newsmen. We plan to broadcast morning and noon newscasts, as well as news breaks throughout the day.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a new news team?

[Carballo] We will inform the Media Directorate of who will be in charge of the newscasts.

[Reporter] You still do not have...

[Carballo, interrupting] We do have some names, but it is best not to reveal them until we have something final. [end recording]

BARRICADA Belittles Opposition Rallies

PA1903004689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Mar 89 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed article: "They Promised 25,000, but the Opposition Could Not Even Gather 3,000 People in Leon and Chinandega"]

[Text] Duilio Baltodano, who organized the opposition rally in Leon, must have felt ashamed when, instead of the 25,000 people he had promised would attend the rally—as he had told LA PRENSA—he had to make do with fewer than 2,000. Baltodano had to resort to the excuse that the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] has very little money.

The participants who gathered at the Leon Metropolitan movie theater barely totalled 2,000. Although all seats were occupied, the crowd the CDN had announced would attend this event did not jam the theater, as LA PRENSA had reported on be..alf of the CDN.

Duilio Baltodano, who backs the Social Christian Party [PSC] faction headed by Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, was the main speaker. In an almost melodramatic tone he told the crowd: "We are very poor; we are operating on a shoestring. We are starving."

As BARRICADA reported earlier, the Leon march was planned by the CDN and its right-wing supporters. Proof of this is that Dr Silvano Matamoros, from the most reactionary faction of the Conservative Party, played a large role in the demonstration.

Although Duilio Baltodano says he is a Social Christian, at the Leon Metropolitan movie theater he clearly deviated from the PSC line when he presented what he called the "national opposition leaders": Matamoros and [Conservative Party leader] Alberto Saborio. Moreover, except for PALI [Liberal Party of Nicaragua] leader Dr Andres Zuniga, who was also one of the speakers at the march, which ended at the San Juan Square, no other party leaders attended the demonstration.

Silvano Matamoros also spoke at the Leon Metropolitan movie theater. In his brief statement, he warned that if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] does not honor the Esquipulas agreements, "the people will explode."

Everything Was Normal

The opposition march proceeded without incident, and the fewer than 2,000 people who gathered at the Metropolitan movie theater then went out to the street and shouted antigovernment slogans. Several people used loudspeakers to address the crowd until the march reached San Juan Square at 1320, when it ended.

The march fell far short of the opposition's expectations, which had been voiced through the CDN and through its sounding board, LA PRENSA. Duilio Baltodano attempted to justify this by saying the opposition had no way to mobilize its followers. The truth is that, once out on the street, the demonstrators may have filled one block at the most, despite the fact that Leon has 50,000 inhabitants.

Not Even 1,000 in Chinandega

Chinandega (Felix Thomas)—Close to 1,000 people, mostly from Chinandega and nearby areas, yesterday marched down the city's streets, shouting: "With Adan and Agustin [PSC leaders Adan Fletes and Agustin Jarquin Anaya], we will see it to the end." They marched under a mercilessly hot sun which succeeded in dispersing the PSC-sponsored demonstration.

Adan Fletes, one of the main speakers at the demonstration, said the people will ask the FSLN to honor the Esquipulas II agreements and for a general amnesty for all Nicaraguans currently living abroad.

The other two PSC speakers were Agustin Jarquin Anaya and Antonio Mesme, who forced the demonstrators to shout anti-FSLN slogans.

The PSC Is Alone

The number of people attending the demonstration, who came from Leon, Chichigalpa, Corinto, and other northern towns, did not add up to the 5,000 people the PSC expected to participate in the march. The PSC virtually marched alone through the streets of Chinandega.

The PSC leaders' efforts to make the demonstrators respond to their slogans were to no avail. The demonstrators could not respond because they did not know the slogans.

AFP: 2,000 in Leon

Leon, Nicaragua (AFP)—At least 2,000 opposition supporters participated in a march in the Nicaraguan city of Leon, 90 km northwest of Managua, to show "the people's unity against Sandinism" and to demand "Nicaragua's democratization."

The demonstration, which had been authorized by the police, took place without incident.

Opposition Communique on Election Conditions

PA1803041689 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 89 p 2

[Communique issued by 14 Nicaraguan opposition parties on 14 March]

[Text] The 14 civic opposition parties hereby advise the government of the Republic and the domestic and international public that, in exercising all the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents during this most recent stage of our common history for the benefit of regional peace and the democratization of Nicaragua, and as a way to help with the commitment assumed by the president of the Republic in the El Salvador document, which requires him to make the necessary reforms to hold clean elections with freedom of expression, we have resolved by consensus:

1. That we reject the arbitrary and dictatorial methods used by the Sandinist government in its relations with the opposition.
2. That, as we have already demanded, the interrelated constitutional and electoral provisions must be reformed as a necessary step for achieving an electoral process that will be free, democratic, and completely satisfactory to the people.
3. That we propose that these reforms be subject to popular approval through a referendum with guarantees to be agreed upon and with the terms provided in the single chapter of Title X of the existing Electoral Law, the bases of which must be agreed upon in a national dialogue plenum.
4. That the Social Communications Media Law be abrogated until a general consensus is reached that will permit the enactment of a new one to replace it and that will be satisfactory to all.
5. That in keeping with the provisions of the El Salvador document, the date for the elections be set by common agreement between the opposition and the government, based on the guarantees and conditions to be established in the national dialogue.
6. That this does not mean that we are giving up the purpose of reforming the other constitutional provisions that we have been demanding. We will continue insisting on them.

Our intentions are to act in unison in regard to the documents signed by the Central American presidents, giving priority to the latest one signed in El Salvador, to make our most determined effort to achieve regional peace as well as our democratization, overcoming all the obstacles that may exist on the path to that end.
Managua, 14 March 1989
[Signed] Social Democratic Party, Liberal Party (PALI), Social Christian Party, Constitutionalist Liberal Party, Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Social Christian Party [repeat as published], Communist Party of Nicaragua, Independent Liberal Party, Popular Social Christian Party, Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Nicaraguan Conservative Party [repeat as published], Democracy and Unification Movement (MUD), Central American Unionist Party (PUCA).

CPT Announces 2 Apr Masaya Demonstration

PA1703141389 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Permanent Workers Congress [CPT] is planning to hold a large demonstration in Masaya on 2 April. The invitation reads as follows:

All of Masaya is called to attend the CPT march, which will be a preelection event held by the workers and peasants. There must be democratization to guarantee clean elections. All of the workers of the city and countryside must gather at the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal Plaza at 0900 on 2 April to march together through the streets of the heroic city of Masaya.

'Murder' of Journalists in El Salvador Scored

PA2003152789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The murder of three journalists in El Salvador yesterday once again shows the repressive and criminal nature of the Salvadoran Army.

Those actions against our press colleagues are only comparable with actions carried out by the armies in Chile, Paraguay, and other military dictatorships. The Somozist army committed similar crimes in Nicaragua. We just have to remember the cold way in which U.S. journalist Bill Stewart was killed while covering the last phase of the insurrection in Managua's (?western) neighborhoods.

In El Salvador, foreign and national journalists are demanding a serious investigation from President Duarte's government to punish the military men responsible for the crime. Will the Army's High Command be willing to conduct the investigation? We doubt it, based on its lack of willingness to rectify things in the past regarding other cases, such as the assassination of Msgr Romero and the murder of Herbert Anaya, president of the Human Rights Commission. After all, that is the way in which Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic government restrains freedom of expression in his country. More than 11 journalists have been killed by the Salvadoran Army since 1981.

Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, journalists from independent media are concerned about 39 former Somozist guards who are still in jail because of their criminal records, to the point of launching journalistic campaigns demanding from the government the release of the harmless pigeons.

What will they say now about the Salvadoran Army, which murdered their colleagues who were complying with their duty to inform the public? Will they defend them as they defended the Somozist guards? They probably will. They will try to play down the action because they lost their dignity, good sense, and professional pride a long time ago.

Bishop Tutu Concludes 4-Day Visit 19 Mar

PA1903233389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1519 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 19 Mar (DPA)—South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu today concluded a 4-day visit to Nicaragua, during which he observed the country's socioeconomic and, particularly, its human rights situation.

During his stay in Managua, Reverend Tutu attended several religious events. On Thursday he held mass for the political prisoners prior to their release from prison.

EPS Officer on Joint Patrols With Costa Rica

PA1903235789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] La Libertad, Rivas, Region 4—No incidents have been reported following the start of joint partols by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and Costa Rica's Rural Police [GAR] along the southern border to prevent cattle smuggling and to destroy marijuana plantations, according to Colonel Roberto Calderon Meza, military chief of Region 5 and coordinator of the technical commission. He added that the object of the joint patrols is to prevent drug harvesting or trafficking and to fight cattle rustling and illegal emigration.

He added that reports from the two countries indicate there may be some marijuana plantations, cattle rustling, and smuggling in the region. "This joint operation began on 15 March and will end when the patrols from the two countries arrive in the Salinas Bay area in El Naranjo," Col Calderon stated.

The officer noted the joint operation began south of Colon. EPS and GAR patrols are covering the same area with unarmed observers in each of these patrols.

"We have had minor problems with radio communications, which has prevented the exchange of observers. However, we hope to overcome this problem as soon as possible to continue the joint patrol," the military chief stated.

In keeping with the San Juan del Sur agreement, when the joint patrol ends the technical commission will decide on the next mission at a date and time to be determined later, he noted.

"We plan to hold a top-level meeting in early April. As members of the technical commission, we intend to present a report on the results of the joint patrols and on actions that must be immediately implemented," Calderon said. He also noted if marijuana plantations are found they will be immediately destroyed.

GAR Chief Colonel Juan Felix Barrantes Alfaro said operations in the northern part of his country will continue. So far no guerrilla group has been found and there have been no skirmishes, he added.

Lieutenant Rodolfo Perez Montano, chief of Region 4's special troops, said that the Costa Rican peasants in the Armenia region have received his troops well and that his troops have provided medical care for children and the elderly.

Government Announces New Transportation Fares

PA1703182489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Summary] Nicaraguan Vice Minister of Construction and Transportation Oscar Melendez has announced increases in bus, freight, and air fares in Managua and other departments. The new fares will enter into effect on 16 March. As a result of these measures, bus fares in Managua will cost 350 cordobas.

Panama

LA PRENSA Journalist, Others Arrested

PA2103004789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Relatives of journalist Alfredo (Wilfi) Jimenez have reported that Jimenez was arrested this afternoon along with two of his sons and two secretaries after the authorities searched the HOY newspaper offices.

Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda has this report:

[Begin Pineda recording] Journalist Alfredo Jimenez, Aurelio Jimenez, Alfredo Jimenez Jr, Lourdes de Libard, and Ana Diaz de Ulloa were arrested at 1530 today.

Why the authorities went to Jimenez' office, which is located in the Casablanca Building of El Carmen neighborhood, is not known.

We understand that Jimenez and a group of journalists were putting together a program for "La Prensa Radial," a news and information program that was supposed to go on the air on Radio Mia tomorrow. Jimenez was also working on LA ESTRELLA CIVILISTA, a news bulletin put out by the Christian Democratic Party.

We must note that the offices of the HOY newspaper—which was never published because Government and Justice Ministry officials shelved the request submitted by LA PRENSA workers to publish it—are located in the Casablanca Building.

We want to add that a small rotary printing press and a plate cylinder were in the office. The equipment is private property and must be returned, along with Jimenez' equipment, to LA PRENSA workers.

We are saying this because we do not want—later on, as has been the case on other occasions—for it to be said that certain material was being printed there.

The workers of LA PRENSA own the equipment that was at the HOY office. It is private property and must be returned.

We demand that these workers be released immediately. These workers are again victims of an aggression, particularly Mr Jimenez, who is a LA PRENSA worker. [end recording]

Meanwhile, lawyer Rogelio Cruz made the following statement:

[Begin Cruz recording] We learned that Jimenez' office was searched and that Jimenez, his sons, and two secretaries were arrested. We do not know what charges have been filed against him, but if he is not released soon he will have to wait until next Monday to be released on a writ of habeas corpus. [end recording]

Officials Explain Arrests

PA2103050089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0345 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] A few moments ago, Assistant Attorney General Mario Ballesteros and Captain George Valma of the FDP's Military Intelligence [G-2] explained the reasons for the arrest of Alfredo Jimenez Velez; his sons, Alfredo and Aurelio; Lourdes de Liesva; and Ana Matilde de Ulloa, who were arrested during a search of Apartment No 2 of the Casablanca Building, Via Grecia in El Carmen neighborhood, where they operated a clandestine printing press that they used to print various types of publications.

According to the authorities, these publications undermine the country's economy and state security.

Capt Valma explained that the search was carried out by the Assistant Attorney General's Office. Valma and Ballesteros provided explanations about the search, the material that was seized, and the arrests that were made.

[Begin recording] [Valma] According to the information we had, certain illegal activities were being conducted there. These activities involved the printing of propaganda and pamphlets that undermine state security and are illegal. On orders from the assistant attorney general, we went to the office and we conducted the search. We found Alfredo Jimenez, his sons Aurelio Alberto and Alfredo Jimenez Clement, and two secretaries there.

[Question indistinct]

[Valma] Yes, Alfredo Jimenez Velez, Aurelio Jimenez, and Alfredo Jimenez Clement, and the two secretaries, Lourdes Olivia de Lieva and Ana Matilde Diaz de Ulloa, who were taken to G-2 headquarters for joint interrogation with the Assistant Attorney General's Office.

The legal procedure followed was formalized by the assistant attorney general, who will explain what was done during the search and what was found.

[Ballesteros] As Captain Valma said, the material seized at the place he mentioned was seditious. Consequently, we are investigating Jimenez Velez and the other people found at the office.

An examination of this material shows that it was aimed at inciting people to rebellion, or, if one may say so, urging people to rise up against the government. Therefore, we feel that the goal in all this is to lead the Panamanian people to violence.

This printing plant was putting out publications and operating without a license. Thus, we can say that it is a clandestine printing press. The contents of the material printed there represent a crime against the state and the country's economy. As I have already mentioned, we are investigating those who are responsible for this material. We will subsequently assess the legal situation of each of these persons.

[Reporter] If Jimenez, his sons, and the secretaries are found guilty, what will be the punishment?

[Ballesteros] We are currently involved in summary proceedings to establish what laws were violated. However, as I have already said, in general the act that was committed undermines state security and the nation's economy.

[Question indistinct]

[Ballesteros] Each of these persons who is under investigation is receiving legal counsel.

[Valma] Eskildsen [not further identified] is their lawyer.

[Ballesteros] Yes, Eskildsen is their lawyer.

[Reporter] What is the nature of the documents and pamphlets that were seized?

[Ballesteros] They refer to an alleged fraud or the existence of a previous fraud. As you know, fraud is a crime that must be investigated by the appropriate electoral body. However, first you have to prove that there was a fraud. Consequently, charges without any basis are being made.

In addition, there is talk of a fraud when we have not even reached the culminating point of the election. In other words, the people are being conditioned to think this way to incite reactions against the government.

Regarding crimes against the national economy, attention was being drawn to alleged crimes against the property of certain state agencies. However, the headlines used for articles on this matter did not coincide with the contents of the articles. [end recording]

Government Backs Electoral Tribunal Decisions

PA2003125289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Mar 89 pp A-1, C-4

[Communique issued by the Presidency in Panama City on 18 March]

[Text] The electoral process, whose climax will be the 7 May elections, will permit the peaceful selection of legislative branch members, corregimiento representatives, and a new president and two vice presidents.

The government has made the solemn commitment to guarantee normal elections so the citizens can exercise their political rights in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code.

In compliance with this responsibility, the executive branch will support and enforce all decisions by the Electoral Tribunal to hold free and orderly elections and will prevent disruptions that affect the peaceful climate needed by the people to express their free will.

The government also believes it is useful to point out that general elections are the correct means for selecting officials and for peacefully settling in this country political disputes that are inherent in every democratic system, such as the one in Panama.

Consequently, the Electoral Tribunal announces that it will only recognize foreign observers who have a valid invitation from the Electoral Tribunal. The Electoral Tribunal will prevent persons not authorized by the Tribunal from meddling in the control and supervision of the elections. The Tribunal will not allow observers

who represent foreign governments, parties, organizations, groups, or movements to carry out public duties that only can be carried out by the Panamanian state or to meddle in Panama's domestic affairs.

Cabinet Modifies Promissory Note Decree

PA1703030689 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 15 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] The cabinet has approved Decree No 5, which modifies the decree that authorized the issuance of promissory notes to pay government employees' 13th-month bonus.

The new decree adds the following paragraph to Article 2, which established that the notes will have a 6-percent annual interest rate and are redeemable on 30 April 1991:

"Instead of the date established in Article 2, the promissory notes issued by the government to meet its obligations to public employees will be redeemable on the date that the United States' economic aggression against Panama ends and when the funds that have been illegally withheld are turned over to the National Treasury."

Article 5 of the same decree states that the payment of promissory notes will be determined through public drawings.

Article 9 of the decree stipulates that the promissory notes will be redeemable exclusively at the National Bank of Panama and charged against a special banking account that is to be used only to pay the promissory notes and the appropriate interest. On the promissory note's due date, the note holder will be able to cash the note or use it to pay taxes or utilities.

These promissory notes can also be used at any time to meet legal obligations to any state agency or public entity.

Solis Palma on Promissory Notes, Observers

PA1703153189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2311 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal today opened its information center, where voters can find out where they are supposed to vote. The ceremony was attended by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency; cabinet ministers; and directors of autonomous and semiautonomous government organizations. After touring the center, Solis Palma was questioned by newsmen on various subjects.

[Begin recording] [Solis, in progress] ...perhaps mistaken expectation is created by thinking that the promissory notes were going to be an immediately negotiable instrument, which was not the original purpose of those notes. Nevertheless, this is a fact that cannot be changed. Consequently, we must determine how to convert these notes into negotiable instruments that will benefit those holding these notes. We have been talking about several solutions, such as making substantial reforms to the original proposal, which was a general proposal, by moving up the date the notes can be cashed. We might redeem them in 1989 instead of waiting until 1991.

Another possibility being considered is to hold more frequent lotteries. Instead of holding a lottery now, another in October, and so on until 1991, we might hold monthly lotteries to redeem all notes this year. Government employees who have these notes should wait 1 or 2 days, and then they will be able to use their notes without incurring any losses. In addition, every day more stores are willing to take the notes. I have heard that El Deposito is not only taking the notes but is redeeming as much as 15 or 20 percent of the notes in cash.

[Reporter] Mr President, a group of international observers will witness the May elections. What do you think of this?

[Solis] They may come to Panama, but we cannot accept international supervision of a Panamanian election or any other sovereign action. We have not allowed the United States to impose conditions on us because we believe in our nation's sovereignty. Every action we take must strengthen this sovereignty. [end recording]

Solis Palma Speaks on Representation

PA1903202689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1825 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at laying of cornerstone for cooking oil factory in Baru, Chiriqui; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...of stagnation, of temporary changes in the definitive course of the history of that procedure, of that process. Unfortunately, I reaffirm that beginning in 1984, the revolutionary process started to exhibit certain faults that were not caused by its creators but by those who joined it to take advantage and restore power to the Panamanian oligarchy and betray the process. That delayed the construction of this factory by 3 more years, when it should have been built some time ago.

This is the course of history. I believe peasant settlements will not only be maintained; the government team Carlos Duque will head will expand them, because they are a fact and reality for Panamanian peasants; they are a necessity. They will be expanded. I am sure the future government will be much more responsive to the multiple community demands that were not met.

However, we must understand that all processes must undergo a maturation period. There were ideas first; the Republic has undergone profound changes.

Now those deep changes are developing and taking shape. Certainly it will be up to Carlos Duque, Ramon Siero, and Aquilino Boyd and the entire government team that will take office on 7 May by popular election—

whether their opponents like it or not—to handle those aspects. I will very briefly tell you that I want you to understand what the changes in the Republic have entailed. I want you to understand what it is you must defend with your votes—and go much further than that if need be—because if we have to send legions of people to defend the revolution, we must do so. We cannot let them snatch the revolution away from us. [shouts]

Let us see what we are defending. Gentlemen, the revolution was a radical change of thinking which, despite its flaws, has major virtues. One of its major virtues is that the Panamanian Government is now a part of the Panamanian people and the Panamanian people are part of the government. When you study Panama's history and see who ruled the Republic and how it was handled, you will understand all we have gained. In the former National Assembly, you never saw an Indian occupying an Assembly seat, because that seat was reserved for the aristocrat intendant who gave out orders from Panama. People with humble surnames never sat there, because National Assembly seats were distributed among certain companies and businesses of Panama's private sector—such as the Panama Cement Company, the General Insurance Company, the sugar mills, and some other companies. Each of those companies had its representative to defend the people's [as heard] interests.

Moreover, we never could have had a candidate like Carlos Duque, whose surname does not belong to Panama's old bourgeoisie. He is a candidate because there has been a radical change. [shouts] You have had representatives from your communities. Good or bad, they were part of your community. As Cuban patriot Jose Marti said: Cuban wine is bitter, but it is Cuban wine. You may have one bad representative, but he is your representative. It is better to have a bad representative than one who is not even a member of your community! Moreover, that situation can be corrected. We are correcting it. We must work with what we have. This change involving community representation or the corregimiento representation constitutes a positive change which you ought not to lose, because you would be losing all your achievements and taking a step backward in our history.

We cannot do that. This is not just a matter of defending the Republic's dignity and sovereignty, which is essential, but also of defending your participation in government. Do not stop participating in government. You have heard your representatives. None of your representatives were brought here from another province; none of them belong to the oligarchy. They are part of you; they are yours. They can talk with you. They can fight with you, but they will continue being part of your community. That is fundamental, because we are going to improve the country—though the opposition may not want it—because the roots of the fighting, honest, hardworking, and patriotic people here are above Panama's oligarchy. For the sake of the fatherland, I ask that you not let victory be taken from you on 7 May, no matter to what extent you must fight for it. Panamanians, you must maintain the power you have conquered, which Torrijos gave to you and we will continue giving you. Thank you.

Boyd Addresses COLINA Rally 16 Mar

PA1703170389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] A large National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] motorcade that began on 50th Street ended in San Miguelito a few minutes ago. The COLINA presidential slate—Duque, Sieiro, and Boyd—headed the motorcade and were received in San Miguelito with applause, music, and shouts of long live COLINA by numerous persons who are members and friends of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, Labor Party, Republican Party, People's Party, National Action Party, Democratic Workers Party, Liberal Party, and Authentic Panamenist Party.

Carlos Duque and the rest of the presidential slate returned the greetings of the crowd that had waited for them on 50th Street—formerly the seditious group's meeting place. The COLINA candidates received the warm affection of the people and shook hands with thousands of Panamanians in the banking sector's streets and avenues.

Aquilino Boyd, COLINA's candidate for the second vice presidency, delivered the main speech at the principle platform on 50th Street. Boyd's improvised words lashed at the country's opposition sectors that, together with the treasonous President Eric Arturo Delvalle's regime, have caused instability and the firing of hundreds of banking employees:

[Begin recording] I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your presence on 50th Street, which at one time the seditious sectors tried to make the cradle of sedition and which today is in your hands, in the hands of the Panamanian people. [crowd shouts] The seditious attempts that started on this 50th Street intersection have been responsible for the closing of the banks and the paralyzation of commerce. These groups called for people not to pay their taxes so the government would not be able to meet its obligations. However, you are here today, and each day you are more solid and more determined to struggle for our national liberation. [crowd shouts: "Long live Omar Torrijos and the COLINA parties!"]

Two years ago, members of the opposition parties under the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] believed they would topple the government by calling for U.S. intervention and interference in our country's domestic problems. [crowd shouts: "Never!"] After that—precisely a year ago today, on 16 March 1988—they attempted to crack our Panama Defense Forces [FDP], but our armed institute, headed by the commander of peace and dignity, is today more united and

stronger than ever before. [shouts for FDP Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, the FDP, and the COLINA political parties and candidates]

Economic reactivation will be achieved with the unification of the eight parties that today are members of COLINA. The opposition sectors already know they will not receive the support they requested from Washington, because Washington knows they lack the Panamanian people's support and the human warmness is observed in the multitude present here. [shouts] The ADOC members, headed by late President Arnulfo Arias, signed a communique in Washington written in English on 6 March 1988. We forgive the late president, but we cannot do the same with the rest, because as they believed signing this document would reinstate the traitor called Eric Arturo Delvalle as the country's president. [crowd shouts: "They will certainly leave!"] Today international cables report that the traitors have divided $61 million that belonged to the Panamanian people. We must ask at this time if those who signed the communique written in English on 6 March 1988 have also shared these funds with Delvalle or if they did not participate in the stripping of this booty. [crowd shouts: "Traitors, thieves!"] Perhaps they plan to use that money to finance ADOC's political campaign. The money belongs to the Panamanian people; its unavailability prevents the government from paying the 13th-month bonus immediately. [shouts] Gentlemen, you will never allow this. [shouts]

It is best that those Washington-directed puppets stay in Washington, because the Panamanian people do not accept them. By this time, they should be convinced that the true COLINA [meaning "hill" in Spanish] is the one headed by Carlos Duque—the one who will attain victory on 7 May—and not the Hill, Washington's Capitol Hill, where to our shame... [crowd shouts: "President Carlos Duque!"] [changes thought] Carlos Duque is, as I said a few days ago, a man of humble birth who comes from the masses. He will govern with the people and for the people. I say to those traitors who want to obey Washington's orders: Those of you who are in Washington should stay there, and those who are in Panama should leave, because Carlos Duque with COLINA has a guaranteed election victory. Thank you. [shouts for Boyd] [end recording]

Ritter on Elections, Rejoining Group of Eight

PA1703005589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Statement by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter on 14 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Panama cannot decide whether or not it will rejoin the Group of Eight, as I have said on various occasions. The remaining seven countries must decide when and if Panama can return to the group. I must point out that Panama is not making any efforts to gain readmission, because it is not up to Panama to make that decision. I believe that the election process is the determining factor in Panama's readmission into that group. Readmission will not be determined through special or personal petitions, but by the way in which the election process is conducted and democracy strengthened in Panama.

Esquivel Views Opposition Election Prospects

PA1703034489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Interview with former Vice President Roderick Esquivel by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] The climate for the elections is truly excellent. No one favors the government, except those who live off it. The Panamanian opposition is rapidly, exponentially increasing every day. This is what we wanted, for these elections to be a plebiscite. They are going to be plebiscite, regardless of the fraud that may be committed.

[Reporter] The COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] has been saying that the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] has been reporting preelection fraud, which could portend a defeat at the May elections. What is your opinion?

[Esquivel] I believe that the saying that the smart Panamanian is the one who will win the elections is outdated. We all know how the government is trying and will try to commit fraud. However, it will not be able to carry it through because fraud can only be committed when the various parties have about an equal standing in the electorate. There will be an avalanche of votes against the government, which will make it impossible for the government to successfully commit fraud.

[Reporter] Government employees are worried about what might happen; they are worried about their jobs. What does the ADOC offer them in the event that it reaches power on 7 May?

[Esquivel] I believe that they have every reason to feel uneasy, but they need not worry; the opposition will win, and opposition politicians respect government employees; we believe in the civil service system. We do not, however, believe in sinecures. Therefore, government employees are assured of stability and, in particular, the opposition will respect government employees who have provided years of service to the state with dedication, despite the fact that frequently someone incompetent is appointed to a position above theirs with a higher salary.

Opposition Marches in Capital 15 Mar

PA1703005289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2333 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] A Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] march left from Porras Park in Panama City this afternoon. It was headed by the ADOC ticket of Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford.

The purpose of the march was to continue to insist on democratic and free elections. The march went through Calidonia District, Central Avenue, and Santa Ana Park, and ended in Independence Park. The peaceful, orderly march was intended to reinforce the right of free passage as established in the Constitution.

CIA 'Bribing' of Costa Rican Judges Alleged

PA2003155789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] Today's topic is the bribing of Costa Rican judges. Since 1985, Costa Rica's judges have been inventing charges against the FDP. The Judicial Investigation Agency, OIJ, issued a completely false report in the wake of Hugo Spadafora's death. The OIJ released fabricated reports of an explosion at a coffee plant in Coto Brus owned by Jose Echevers, who claims the bomb was planted because of his close friendship with Tuturo [Eric Arturo] Delvalle. Well, [Martinez chuckles] I leave that close friendship to him.

At any rate, we must remember that an arsenal of automatic weapons and explosives was later seized from Echevers in San Jose. The OIJ has been insistently adding fuel to the fire to the point that President Oscar Arias has just created special security squads at the border to protect Costa Rica, which is about to be invaded by Panamanians. What a bad soap opera!

That is because OIJ personnel earn meager salaries and are forced to find additional money by accepting bribes from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Moreover, 17 Supreme Court of Justice magistrates have accepted a donation of technical equipment from the Drug Enforcement Agency office in San Jose. The DEA donated a vehicle to the head of the Public Prosecutor's Office. The DEA has also donated other vehicles, including a Chevy van equipped with a highly sophisticated radar that can spot the exact location of a person from a long distance away and record whatever that person says.

Deputy Leonel Villalobos Salazar denounced the recording of telephone conversations and the spying on magistrates and members of the Costa Rican cabinet, which the CIA later used to pressure officials into signing certain resolutions and cooperating in unmentionable activities.

Deputy Villalobos presented a list of top officials to be summoned to testify on this sensational scandal that reveals the CIA's bribing of Costa Rican judges. This country's top court, the Supreme Court of Justice, and its investigation agency, the OIJ, have sold out to the CIA. This country has no moral authority to ever issue serious reports or speak the truth.

Henceforth, Costa Rican reports and actions will always compel us to find out what motivates these Costa Ricans working for the United States.

Assembly Rejects Bill To Change FDP Structure

PA1703133889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The Legislative Assembly's Government and Justice Commission today rejected a bill amending Law No 20 on the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Guillermo Jimenez had this to say about the bill:

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] The bill was aimed at changing the current FDP command, which is a single body, by dividing it into three different commands.

In addition, by creating several commands this bill would have affected the country's economy. It also affected the FDP's current monolithic unity and might have caused internal conflicts within the FDP.

Moreover, we feel the size of the country's population—a little over 2 million—did not justify the creation of so many commands and might lead to the kind of instability that has plagued some Latin American armed forces. This has happened in Argentina and many other countries that have several general staffs, all of which struggle for power or for larger budgets.

[Reporter] Does the bill set a limit on how long the FDP commander in chief may hold office?

[Jimenez] Yes, it proposed a 5-year term. We are not opposed to this, but we felt we had to study the feasibility of all of these aspects. The current FDP law resulted from the historical evolution of the FDP. In addition, due to the current political circumstances, we require a climate of peace during the elections. We feel this bill could have started a nationwide controversy that might have put different segments of society on a collision course. [end recording]

Treaty Affairs Director on Retention of Taxes

PA1603005189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Major Daniel Delgado, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate, DEPAT, has blamed the United States for the difficult situation that Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees are currently facing. Maj Delgado said the PCC's refusal to transfer the taxes deducted from employee's salaries to the Panamanian Government has made it impossible for the employees to obtain national tax clearance certificates [paz y salvos]. The legal measures the Panamanian Government has taken are being felt, as the DEPAT director explains:

[Begin Delgado recording] I have advised the PCC on various occasions that its failure to transfer the taxes it has deducted from Panamanian employees' salaries to the Panamanian Government is a violation of the canal treaties. The PCC, moreover, has victimized its employees by deducting taxes from their salaries and refusing to transfer them to the Panamanian Government, in accordance with the U.S. Government's instructions.

I have referred to this situation on various occasions, and I have informed the PCC that the U.S. Government must transfer those taxes to the Panamanian Government because its failure to do so results in these employees being delinquent in their tax payments and therefore guilty of fraud.

The Finance and Treasury Ministry is currently collecting taxes from Panamanian citizens guilty of defrauding the treasury. These individuals are victims because their taxes are being illegally withheld by the PCC. It is the Finance and Treasury Ministry's duty, however, to collect these taxes. In order to do this, it has initiated a series of proceedings against Panamanian PCC employees. As a result of these proceedings, some Panamanian citizens' bank accounts have been frozen and their vehicles impounded. These Panamanians are caught in a situation created by the United States. The taxes deducted from their salaries do not belong to the U.S. Government.

I would like to acknowledge the Panamanian workers affected by this situation created by the United States for their devotion and responsibility, for finding ways to get to work, and for continuing to efficiently operate the canal. In reality, we should all acknowledge these workers for their responsibility and patriotism. Despite the problems confronting them, they have continued fulfilling their duties. I sincerely hope the U.S. Government and PCC will reconsider and fulfill their duty by transfering the withheld taxes to the Panamanian Government, thus ensuring workers the peace and security they need to continue efficiently operating the Panama Canal as they have done throughout this entire crisis. [end recording]

Legislator Demands Explanation for Lost Funds

PA1703184789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Interview with Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator Pedro Brin Martinez by unidentified reporter on 16 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Brin] I believe that although the U.S. Congress has begun an investigation, the U.S. Government itself and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan must explain the loss of the $65 million that was given to former President Arturo Delvalle for safekeeping. The transfer of these funds by the U.S. Government was illegal, because former President Delvalle is not an authorized official of the Panamanian Government or people. The U.S. Government did not have any authority to give these funds to Delvalle. If the U.S. Congress wants to investigate, they must first prove it by arresting former President Delvalle and his cronies who are in the United States and putting them on trial. In the United States, the theft of $65 million is a big crime. If the U.S. Government and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan want to clean their image in the domestic and international areas, they must first arrest Delvalle.

[Reporter] Will the legislative branch continue to press these demands?

[Brin] As you know, I have always reported the irregularities by former President Delvalle in the Panamanian legislature and have always mantained a firm position against U.S. aggression. For example, I believe now we must discuss President Bush's additional measures against civilians who live in the Panama Canal area and in the Panama Canal Commission. [sentence as heard] These measures show that President Bush has not changed and is even intensifying the policy of aggression begun by President Ronald Reagan against the Panamanian people.

UN Representative Sends Letter to Noriega

PA1503044589 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 12 Mar 89

["Text" of letter sent by Leonardo A. Kam, permanent representative to the United Nations, to General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 3 March]

[Text] 3 March 1989

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]

Panama City, Republic of Panama

Mr Commander: I have the honor of acknowledging your letter dated 25 February 1989, in which you notified me of the FDP's willingness to be included in the contingent of military observers of the UN assistance group for the transition period leading to Namibia's independence. This correct decision made by our FDP was immediately reported to the secretary general, who was pleased to acknowledge it.

To let you know how things are developing, I wish to inform you that the steps that were announced in our 14 February memorandum have been taken. They are essential for the implementation of the UN program in Namibia.

On 16 February, the Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 632, in which it decided to implement the UN plan for Namibia's independence beginning 1 April 1989, and it authorized the secretary general to carry out the appropriate actions.

On 21 February, the secretary general presented to the Security Council his proposals regarding the composition of the military units of the GANUP [expansion unknown], accepting Panama as one of the countries that will provide military observers.

Two days later, on 23 February, the members of the Security Council, through their president, agreed with the proposals made by the secretary general, which means that Panama has been accepted as part of the GANUP military contingent.

I enclose copies of letters exchanged between the secretary general and the Security Council president in this regard.

Subsequently, on Wednesday, 1 March 1989, the UN General Assembly approved the funds to finance the operation in Namibia by means of Resolution 43-232.

Once all these procedures were completed, all that remains to be received is the official letter of the secretary general formally accepting the cooperation of the Panamanian Government in the deployment of 20 military observers to participate in the GANUP.

As soon as I receive the letter, I will be pleased to send it to you immediately.

I take the opportunity to reiterate to you my high esteem and distinguished consideration.

[Signed] Leonardo A. Kam, permanent representative to the United Nations

Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro Murgas will head the UN contingent of Panamanian military observers in Namibia.

Argentina

Menem Discusses Brady Plan, Armed Forces

Plan Not To Solve Debt Problem

PY2003173289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem has said that he thinks that, although he has no details about the so-called Brady Plan, it will not solve the foreign debt problem.

According to the reports I have, Menem said, I do not think the plan will solve the foreign debt problem, and much less solve the problem of those of us who intend to honor our national commitments.

'Good Relations' Necessary

PY1903015689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 18 Mar (NA)—Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem today said that he will soon meet with Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino and that he considers it "necessary" to maintain "good relations" with the Armed Forces.

Menem held a news conference in a downtown hotel in this capital and said that the military institutions "are discussed all the time." He said he will talk with Gen Gassino on "subjects related to the Armed Forces."

The La Rioja governor said that the Brady Plan for the foreign debt "is just a series of suggestions and so far there is nothing clear about it."

Regarding the Armed Forces, Menem reiterated that he has contacted high-ranking military officers because "they are part of an essential national institution," therefore it is necessary to maintain good relations with them.

"I think it is in very bad taste to always talk about this national defense institution, for reasons that are not linked with the institution," the presidential candidate for the FREJUPO [Popular Justicialist Front] said. [passage omitted]

Vice President To Visit PRC in Late March

PY1703202289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1644 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 mar (DYN)—IT was officially reported today that Vice President Victor Martinez will pay an official 1-week visit to the PRC in late March at the invitation of Chinese authorities.

Martinez will leave on 25 March and will arrive on 28 March. He will meet with national and provincial officials that include the vice premier of the State Council, the vice premier of the State Council, the vice foreign minister, members of the National People's Congress, and directors of industrial centers.

Economy Minister Leaves for Amsterdam

PY1803141689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2308 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (DYN)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille today left for Amsterdam to attend the annual IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] meeting during which he will negotiate a $2-billion loan for Argentina for specific projects. Even though the trip had been officially scheduled, the public was not aware of it.

The Finance Ministry officially reported today that the loan will be granted to our country after the approval by the United States of the increase of the IDB's capital.

The conclusion of the negotiations with the United States and the approval of the capital increase will allow the IDB to obtain funds from the international capital market and thus finance a program of loans for Latin America for approximately $22.5 billion. The IDB will then become a supplier of net resources to the region.

Over the past 3 years, Argentina has registered a deficit in its financial flow with the IDB. With the new accord, Argentina will be able to quadruple the loans that it is now receiving from the IDB. The loans will thus reach approximately $2 billion.

The IDB will thus continue to finance specific projects in the health, education, economic and [words indistinct] infrastructure, and in the production areas.

Likewise, a line of credits will be granted to support the economic reform plans of Latin American nations for a total of approximately $5 billion.

During the talks that have been held thus far [words indistinct] disbursed in more advantageous conditions. The Argentine delegation and the delegations of other countries of the region will try to have the decision formalized and approved.

Support on Falklands at Interparliamentary Talks

PY2003012789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1943 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Budapest (Hungary), 17 Mar (TELAM)—Argentina today achieved broad support for its demand for sovereign right over the Malvinas Islands in the final declaration that will be issued tomorrow by the World Interparliamentary Union [Union Interparlamentary Mundial] but Switzerland warned that it will oppose the condemnation—also included in the document—of the militarization of the South Atlantic by the United Kingdom.

Upon concluding the work of the committee in charge of issuing the final document that the Interparliamentary Union will publish on decolonization matters, the Argentine delegation to the 81st Interparliamentary Union Conference received an openly favorable statement, although the head of the Swiss delegation said that West European countries will oppose the text of the document at the closing ceremony of the conference tomorrow.

Sources of the Argentine delegation, which is headed by UCR Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, reacted incredulously to that direct warning and stated that by no means will the pro-British position announced by the Swiss delegate include countries such as Spain, Italy, and France, which have been supporting Argentine demands on the Malvinas Islands since the assumption of the constitutional government.

UCR Deputy Horacio Huarte, Argentine representative to the committee in charge of issuing the document, rejected the objections presented by Swiss parliamentarian Heinrich Ott, and in the middle of the meeting told him: "We are not surprised by your country's position, since you traditionally have been the lawyers of the British."

The declaration achieved by Argentina within the committee in charge of issuing the document—supported by an overwhelming majority of Latin American delegations, the Socialist bloc, and other Third World nations—"strongly reaffirms" Argentine rights over the Malvinas, Sandwich, and South Georgia Islands, in addition to "the maritime zone around them."

The declaration also disavows the implementation of the principle of self-determination for the Kelpers (inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands), who "do not constitute a colonial people" as understood by the United Nations. It also "condemns and demands the dismantling of the military bases and a halt to miltary activities" by the United Kingdom in the occupied territories.

The Swiss delegation unsuccessfully proposed the elimination of the points referring to the militarization of the South Atlantic, suggesting that the text be reduced to the same content as the document approved during the Interparliamentary Union Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 1987, which made no reference at all to the naval fortress the British built on the islands after the military operations ordered by the de facto government in April 1982.

Argentina rejected that suggestion, and so attention is focused on the final plenary session that the Interparliamentary Union will hold tomorrow, after 5 days of deliberations in this capital, when the countries will vote on the final text, which will also include chapters dedicated to the apartheid problem and to the protection of children.

In addtion to Solari Yrigoyen and Huarte, the Argentine delegation is made up by Senators Adolfo Gass (UCR), Julio Amoedo (Popular Conservative Party), Arturo Jimenez Montilla (Justicialist Party), and Luis Leon (UCR); and by Deputies Balbino Zubiri (UCR), Roberto Silva (UCR), and Federico Puerta (Justicialist Party).

British MP's Make Suggestion

PY2003015789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1103 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Budapest, Hungary, 18 Mar (TELAM)—British Conservative and Labor Party MP's have suggested the further exploitation of the use of the concept "political future" of the Malvinas Islands and said that using that semantic expression would create favorable conditions to reopen overall negotiations with Argentina, without excluding the sovereignty issue.

This alternative was mentioned during an informal meeting between British MP's and Argentine congressmen accredited to the World Interparliamentary Union [Union Interparlamentaria Mundial] Conference being held in this city, and was satisfactorily evaluated by UCR Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, heal of the Argentine delegation.

"We do not care about the protocol that is employed. The important thing is the essence of the matter, which has to do with Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands," Solari Yrigoyen stated at the end of the meeting, which lasted a little more than 2 hours at the Hotel Flamenco where the Argentines are staying.

Solari Yrigoyen was accompanied to the closed meeting by his UCR colleague Senator Adolfo Gass, while Deputy Federico Puerta attended the meeting representing the Justicialist party, and Julio Amoedo represented the Popular Conservative Party, which is allied to the Justicialist Party.

Present at the meeting representing the British were Michael Marshall, the head of the British delegation to the Interpaliamentary Union Conference; Labor Party representatives Tom Cox and Donald Anderson; and a lady MP known as Baroness David, also of the Labor Party. Conservative Neil Thorne joined them at the last moment.

According to explanations given by the Argentine congressmen, the British MP's mentioned the convenience of avoiding use of the word sovereignty "for some time," arguing that this term provokes "uneasy feelings on the British internal front."

Instead, they recommended use of the term "political future" of the islands, because in this manner the discussions could encompass the overall conflict, including the main aspect, namely, Argentina's sovereign rights.

Moreover, the Argentine delegation pointed out the possibility of issuing a statute that would preserve the individual rights and guarantees of the Kelpers, the inhabitants of the Malvinas, to gurantee their civil liberties and cultural traditions under an eventual Argentine administration of the islands.

"In the United Kingdom we still remember General Galtieri," Thorne stated, to which Solari Yrigoyen replied that "Argentina is now ruled by Raul Alfonsin, who liberated the country from his authoritarian predecessors." Amoedo intervened by recalling that Galtieri is under arrest because of the 1982 war.

The Argentines also criticized British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, accusing her of trying to "carry on" the confrontation, and cited as examples the fishing permits in the exclusion zone, the case of the "Indiana I" ferry, and the plane that left Montevideo for the Malvinas Islands without Urugusyan authorization.

Antiterrorism Bill Sent to Congress

PY1903223089 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Government yesterday made public the legal frame which will guide the Armed Forces' participation in the fight against subversion, contained in a bill which it sent to Congress on Friday night.

The bill, which aims at preventing and combatting terrorist activities, complements another recent decree entitling the government to call on the armed forces to crush subversive attacks.

The bill—known as the omnibus law—also extends sanctions against terrorists to include "apologists of crime who directly attack the system." Sentences for the latter crime, currently ranging between five months to a year, would be extended to a one-to-five-year period.

According to the draft law—which introduces amendments to the Criminal Code and National Defense Law—magistrates will be able to extend the time allotted to their questioning of prisoners, as well as the time the accused spend incommunicado. The bill mentions in its justification that the recent subversive attack against La Tablada's Third Infantry Regiment "caused a critical examination of current criminal legislation."

The amendments to the Criminal Code include "the legal alternative to decrease the sentence or even exempt from punishment any member of a subversive group who chose to cooperate with the effective enforcement of the law."

Another incorporation is a clause which establishes one-to-six years imprisonment for "public display of the name or initials of a subversive organization," and sanctions "conspiring against the system, instigating or inciting others to commit crimes against the system" with half the sentence corresponding to such crimes.

In its Article 13, the bill points out that the security or armed forces could be called upon to intervene in combat situations "of significant enough proportions." A commander of operations would then be named with jurisdiction over the besieged area, and public transport would be placed at his disposal.

However, the bill specifies that although the commander will have sufficient faculties to be able to crush an attack, he will in no way replace local authorities regarding their other attributions.

The Armed Forces will likewise be authorized to intervene in the crushing of combat situations created by a federal crime.

Also stipulated is "the closing down of any offices belonging to a terrorist organization, as well as the confiscation of its funds or assets."

"If the assets are useful to an official establishment or institution for the public good, they will be handed over to them definitively. If this is not the case but they have commercial value, they will be publicly auctioned. Finally, if they have no value at all, they will be destroyed," states the bill.

The incommunicado status will last a maximum of three days, but the magistrate in charge will be entitled to renew the measure for another three. Moreover, in certain cases the incommunicado status could last as long as the questioning.

In a further extension of magistrates' powers, they will be allowed to order proceedings outside their jurisdiction.

The reforms are widely based on West German legislation as well as the Cordoba province criminal code and the legal guidelines for Latin America drafted by lawyer Claria Olmedo.

Politicians, Officials Rule Out Coup Possibility

PY1903223689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 89 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Peronist and Radical presidential candidates Carlos Menem and Eduardo Angeloz yesterday categorically ruled out any possibility of a coup d'etat in Argentina before the elections or during the transition period which ends December 10 of this year.

Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo also denied that possibility in categorical terms. Likewise, Radical Deputy Marcelo Stubrin (Federal Capital) admitted that "there are many who are interested in disrupting public order" but considered that "they will not be able to do so."

"Rumours of a coup d'etat only 60 days before the elections are almost alienating and constitute a lack of respect and consideration for the country," said Angeloz, minutes before entering the Armenian Culture Association to give a press conference at midday yesterday.

The different pronouncements on the part of Radicals and Peronists were sparked by reports from high-ranking government sources that groups close to former Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico are planning to overthrow President Raul Alfonsin following the May 14 elections.

The sources also explained that the government's strategy to counter this attack would be to create "a civilian force" by instigating hostility towards any coupmongering attempt among a sector of public opinion.

Another issue considered decisive by the sources was the continuation of Army Chief-of-Staff Francisco Gassino at the head of the force until the transfer of political power.

Menem held that "we can't even remotely consider" the possibility of a military take-over. He nevertheless admitted that "perhaps there is a certain unrest amid the Armed Forces."

In turn, Cafiero agreed with Menem's appreciation, stating that "it's absurd to think that weeks before the national elections—which will probably be free and with great voter participation—a military or civilian group could attempt to take over the government."

On the recent attack against the 101st Anti-Aircraft Artillery unit in Ciudadela, Stubrin said that "this attack on the security of the Armed Froces has the very clear aim of disrupting the road to the elections."

Finally, Caputo yesterday morning clarified his statements at the Plaza Italia rally on Thursday night, when he referred to "threats" of a coup.

"There is no threat of a coup, which implies an institutional threat posed by the Armed Forces to the government. I don't think that is the case in Argentina but rather that the opposite is true," said the minister.

'People's Front' Joins Communist Party Faction

PY2003141689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1257 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM)—The Argentine Communist Party faction called the "16th Congress Defense Faction" [Tendencia Defensa del XVI Congreso] has reported: "It was decided in Buenos Aires in mid-December that FREJUPO [People's Unity Justicialist Front—Frente Justicialista de Unidad Popular] would join the 16th Congress Defense Faction." It added: "This decision was based on the need to make the left deepen its ties with its social basis, the [word indistinct] class."

In a communique, the 16th Congress Defense Faction, which opposes the current Communist Party board, reported that Cesar Arias, national authorized representative of the Justicialist Party, was informed of this decision. The communique pointed out that the decision is aimed at "uniting all FREJUPO leftist members around a common project to the formation of the FLNS [Frente de Liberacion Nacional y Social—National and Social Liberation Front], which is based on a politic of the masses."

The communique also states: "The participation of the masses in the national events must be intensified. Therefore, FREJUPO must conduct its activities in homes, jobs, schools, and universities."

Electoral Court Approves New Alliances

PY2003173089 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Mar 89 p 14

[Text] The Electoral Court has already recognized four national alliances [Alianzas] and three alliances in the Federal Capital for participation in the 14 May elections.

However, two other federal and national alliances are carrying out procedures to be recognized.

The National Elections Secretariat, whose director and deputy secretary are Pablo Aragon and Roberto Peller, respectively has approved the national alliances of the United Left [Izquierda Unida—IU], The Green Humanist Front [Frente Humanista Verde], the Independent Federalist Confederation [Confederation Federalista Independiente], and the Justicialist Peoples Front [Frente Justicialista Popular—FREJUPO].

The alliances recognized in the Federal Capital are: the Alliance of the Center [Alianza de Centro], the United Left, and the Green Humanist Front.

Those awaiting recognition in the Federal Capital are: the FREJUPO (comprised of the Justicialist Party; the Intransigent Party; the Integration and Development Movement; the Constitutional Nationalist Movement [Movimiento Nacionalista Constitutioncional]; the Authentic Socialist Movement [Movimiento Autentico Socialista]; People's Line Movement (Movimiento Linea Popular]; Work and People's Movement [movimiento del Trabajo y del Pueblo]; the Patriotic Liberation Movement [Movimiento Patriotico de Liberacion]; the People's Democratic Movement [Movimiento Democratico Popular]; the Popular Action Movement; and the Federal Alliance, which is made up of the Federal Party and the Intermediate Generation Party [Generacion Intermedia].

The national alliances that have not yet been recognized are: the People's Alliance [Alianza Popular], made up of the Anti-imperialist People's Democratic Movement [Movimiento Democratico Popular Anti-imperialista] and the Workers Socialist Liberation Movement, Mendoza district [Movimiento Socialista Obrero para la Liberacion,

distrito Mendoza]; and the Alliance of the Center, made up of the UCEDE [Democratic Centrist Union], the PDP [Progressive Democratic Party], and the Democratic Concentration [Concentracion Democrata].

The Election Secretariat has given complete information about each alliance. The deadline for legal registration was 2400 last night.

According to the Elections Secretariat, the United Left is made up of the Movement toward Socialism and the Communist Party, in the Federal Capital and nationwide.

The Green Humanist Front Alliance [Alianza Frente Humanista Verde] is comprised of the Humanist Party and the Peace Ecologist Green Future Party [Partido Verde Ecologista Facifista Futuro Verde], in the Federal Capital and nationwide.

In turn, the Center Alliance (Federal Capital) is made of the UCEDE, the PDP, and the PD [Democratic Party of the Federal Capital]; while at the national level is us made up of the UCEDE, the PDP, and the Democratic Concentration. This latter alliance is yet not recognized. The Socialist Unity [Union Socialista] (Federal Capital) is made up of the Popular Socialist Party and the Democratic Socialist Party. This alliance has not been recognized yet either. Meanwhile, the Independent Federalist Conferation is made up of the Federal Party (at a national level), the Salta Renewal Party [Partido Renovador Salteno], the Popular Line Movement of La Rioja [Movimiento Linea Popular de La Rioja], Jujuy Popular Movement [Movimiento Linea Popular de Jujeno], Transforming Action of Corrientes Party [Accion Transformadora de Corrientes], and the Popular Line Movement of Entre Rios.

It must be pointed out that the National Electorate Court of the Federal Capital will meet today at 1200 in Hall No III of the National Court of Appeals for Federal Administrative Affairs. The Court will be presided over by Guillermo Andres Munoz and the members will be Gustavo Bossert and Juan Fegoli.

Army Staff Releases Communique on Attack

PY1703143789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1331 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (TELAM)—The Army Staff released a communique on an event that occurred last night at the guard post of the 101st Air Defense Artillery Group in Ciudadela.

The communique says: "The Army General Staff makes it known that at 2330 on 16 March a group of five to eight armed individuals in two or three vehicles opened fire against the guards of the security service of the 101st Air Defense Artillery in Ciudadela, Buenos Aires Province. "The guards responded immediately, but the attackers escaped. There were no casualties. The appropriate organizations are investigating."

Reportage on Military Unrest Situation

Gassino on 'Harassment'

PY1703151089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino has told some 100 retired generals that "more than 100" acts of harassment were staged against several military units since the seizure of Regiment 3 of La Tablada on 23 January.

Gassino, who provided this information to the retired generals thanks to a report submitted to him, added that in February unknown people shot at his residence in Campo de Mayo, where he was having a few days of rest.

Meanwhile, higly reliable sources, quoted by a Buenos Aires weekly, have disclosed that the military intelligence services have discovered that the "All for the Fatherland" movement, whose leaders organized the attack on the La Tablada regiment, has more than 100 militants "who are willing to take up arms."

The largest number of subversives are in Cordoba Province, where at the beginning of February a military unit was attacked, although the reports on the attack were later dismissed by some politicians.

Concerning that attack, made against a battalion near the town of Rio Cuarto, Gassino told the retired generals that the federal courts continue to investigate and that the courts have evidence that the attack really occurred.

The Army chief of staff added that on other occasions groups of unidentified persons got off a bus and advanced as a unit toward the wire fence of military bases. Such actions were followed by anonymous calls saying that "this is a demonstration of the capacity for mobilization" of the subversives.

During the meeting, at which he was the only speaker, Gassino added that on some occasions shots were fired at the Air Force facilities in Palomar and Quilmes.

According to eyewitnesses quoted by the morning newspaper CLARIN, which todays carries a report on the meeting between Gassino and the retired generals, the Army chief of staff provided a comprehensive report on the current situation in the Army.

Gassino reiterated his idea that it is absolutely necessary to maintain internal unity in the Army. Unity, he said, has been his main objective since he assumed the post of Army chief of staff, replacing retired Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi.

The report says that during the meeting a retired general voiced concern over the inevitable political tension that will be caused by national elections on 14 May.

The retired general also reportedly voiced concern over the possibility that on 14 May another subversive attack may take place, under cover of demonstrations by some political groups.

The retired general said that this possibility will be even stronger if the elections do not have a clear result and if runoff elections are necessary.

Official on Alleged Divisions

PY1803184089 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] A reliable Army General Staff source on 14 March told LA PRENSA that some of the reports published in the press yesterday about alleged divisions in the Army high command are "absolutely false and ill-intentioned." LA PRENSA did not publish the reports.

The source was consulted in the wake of a rumor heard by our correspondent at government house about a possible urgent meeting between Army Chief of Staff Division General Francisco Gassino and President Raul Alfonsin. The meeting was to have been held over discrepancies that may have arisen during a high command meeting at Libertador Building on Monday.

A morning newspaper on 14 March published a report on the existence of two different opinions at the high command over the sanctions that should be imposed on the officers who participated in the three rebellions against the Alfonsin administration.

The high-ranking source consulted by LA PRENSA said the reports sought to carry out some kind of "psychological action, both externally and internally, for the purpose of confusing Army members. As an external action, the reports aim at maintaining a permanent situation of unrest, and as an internal action they seek to confuse the members of the performance evaluation board, which is made up of the generals of the Army high command, under the presidency of Deputy Chief of Staff General Valentin Venier.

We were also told that during the meeting by the high command, which at times became a performance evaluation board, resolutions were approved regarding 50 officers who participated in the Villa Materlli rebellion, and that each of these officers is now being officially notified of these resolutions. Our source declined to describe the resolutions, because the officers should be notified first.

Concerning those who participated in the events of Easter week in 1987 and Monte Caseros in 1988, the performance evaluation board cannot make any decision yet, because these military personnel are the subject of a summary investigation by the military courts, which have not yet made a decision.

We are also told that the style imposed by General Gassino for this type of meeting will be maintained, and that a similar meeting is likely for the end of this month or the beginning of April. It is thought that the Army high command might meet once a month, and that the Armed Forces high command might meet whenever necessary.

Retirements Linked to Rebellion

PY1903222589 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 89 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Army High Command yesterday confirmed that General Eugenio Dalton, the former commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade, had applied for retirement while a military source said that another general could also retire in the next few days as a result of the Villa Martelli uprising.

Apart from explaining that Dalton had voluntarily retired, the High Command denied reports in the business daily Ambito Financiero that the punishments meted out to Villa Martelli officers two days ago were the result of a deal between Second Army Corps Commander Isidro Caceres and rebel leader Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

But an Army captain yesterday said that on the contrary Seineldin had interpreted the punishments as a victory for "hardliners" within the Army establishment.

Ambito also said that Army Chief-of-Staff Francisco Gassino had requested the retirement of Dalton, who reportedly had "serious difficulties" leading his troops against Seineldin. Army High Command spokesmen also denied any meeting between Gassino and Seineldin.

Jaunarena Says 'Normal'

PY1903224289 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 89 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena yesterday ruled out rumours of alleged military unrest, downplaying press reports of an alleged destabilizing campaign and claiming that "the military situation is totally normal." In turn, the Army High Command categorically denied the existence of an agreement between the force's Chief-of-Staff Francisco Gassino and rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin. Meanwhile, Senate defence committee chairman Antonio Berhongaray (Radical-La Pampa) considered that the Army chain of command "is consolidated," pointing out that the sanctions applied by the Army Promotion Board against military personnel who took part in uprisings "show that there were no pacts with the rebels." Finally, in a letter to Federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal from Magdalena military prison, former de facto President

Jorge Rafael Videla confirmed that he "fully accepts institutional responsibility" for the 1976 coup d'etat and asked that no charges be filed against his subordinates on that account.

Senator Warns About Destabilization Plan

PY1703200889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1412 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA)—Today Senator Antonio Berhongaray warned about the action of "sectors who advocate a coup" and want to destabilize the government. "He did not discard "some action" by people with links to Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

He added: "All precautionary measures should be taken because Col Aldo Rico has shown more than once that the Constitution is not necessarily one of his ideals, one of his strong points."

Berhongaray made these comments to Radio Mitre regarding an article run by NA which was published today by DIARIO POPULAR, saying that sectors close to Rico are reportedly planning an unusual coup to prevent President Alfonsin from remaining in government until 10 December 1989.

According to the article, the rebels' intention is to get Alfonsin out of the government and to replace him with the vice president or another official in line according to the Constitution's presidential succession.

The article, which cites sources close to the president, also says that the effort to dispose of the president is reportedly planned for early morning on 15 May.

In this regard, Berhongaray said: "I have no information on this report." However, he indicated that "democracy cannot remain idle while it is being subdued from every angle to any psychological or direct action."

He added: "If they learned a lesson, so did we. I believe that the work of reporters is very important because they are always clearing up things."

He went on to say that the "psychological actions" are aimed at "destabilizing" and "promoting speculation."

Regarding the information that Col Rico was giving seminars on political events on Wednesdays in Campo de Mayo despite his preventive custody status, Berhongaray said that "from my point of view that report has no basis, either rationally or in reality. Otherwise we would be forced to think that everything is out of control, which is obviously not the case because of the disciplinary actions recently implemented in the Army."

He added: "I have no information on that report, which is the same thing as denying it."

He indicated that "using gentle terminology, I would say that it would be quite unusual for a man on trial and under arrest to give indoctrination classes."

He said the "seminars" given by Rico are really meetings with civilian and military friends in his prison in Campo de Mayo. The commentator who wrote the article, however, labeled these meetings "seminars."

Similar information on Rico's meeting was also published early this week by LA PRENSA. That report also included Rico's political comments.

Probably because Berhongaray made his comments on radio he did not realize that the word seminar used by the writer to describe Rico's meeting was journalistic style that does not refer to a classroom, textbooks, or blackboards.

Berhongaray added regarding the "sectors that advocate a coup" that "we already know how they operate, we know the diagnosis, but sometimes the therapy is not so simple even though the majority of the Argentine people are willing to move this mountain of interests that is slowing down the current process of change."

Jaunarena 'Plays Down' Reports

PY1803021289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2209 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Mar del Plata, 17 Mar (TELAM)—Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena has said here that "the situation within the Armed Forces is completely normal." He also played down reports of an alleged destabilization plan to be staged on 15 May once [words indistinct] national elections.

Jaunarena talked to journalists before leaving Mar del Plata where, along with President Raul Alfonsin, he attended the farewell ceremony of the Japanese technical mission that was held at local national fishing school.

Discussing an alleged destabilization plan, Defense Minister Jaunarena said: "I have no other details in this regard other than those supplied by the press, which amounts to mere speculation. We are not in a position to either confirm or deny this report."

Regarding the incident that occurred before dawn today in Ciudadela, Buenos Aires Province, Jaunarena said: "I have no more information that what the press has on the incident. I was perpetrated by a rather small group of unidentified people who fired shots and then fled. Normal investigations are being carried out to establish responsibilities and eventually find those responsible."

Jaunarena was asked whether this incident may be related to the nearly 100 attacks against military units. According to press reports, the army commanders discussed this issue during a recent meeting.

In this regard, Jaunarena said: "I think there were only a few incidents of this nature, not 100. This is one more incident of this nature and it has the same characteristics as those that have been published by the press. There is nothing much to add. The media have clearly reported what has happened."

Asked whether the recent punishments applied to Army officers may have consequences within the Army, Jaunarena said: "The rulings are in line with Army regulations and procedures. They are in line with the behavior of the officers at the time. I do not believe this issue will have any further repercussions."

He concluded by saying: "The situation within the Armed Forces is completely normal. They are devoted to their specific tasks. The tasks pertaining to the qualifications board are over. Furthermore, President Alfonsin has signed the decree establishing the task force in charge of safeguarding the elections. This is another preparing for the elections that Argentines will soon be experiencing."

Police, U.S. FBI Raid Counterfeiting House

PY2003215389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2048 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Mendoza, 18 Mar (DYN)—Argentine Federal Police and U.S. FBI agents today raided a printing house in the town of San Martin, near this provisional capital, where counterfeit dollar bills were being printed. The owner of the printing house, his wife, and eight other persons involved were arrested.

Police sources said a large number of counterfeit dollar bills were found in the printing house, along with numerous printing materials.

The printing facilities were located in a house at 527 Belgrano Street, in San Martin, 42 km east of Mendoza. The house was raided on orders from San Isidro Federal Judge Daniel Piotti.

Inside the house police found a large number of counterfeit U.S. dollars, plates for printing the dollars, ink, paper, machinery, and high-precision copiers.

The FBI agents took part in the action because of the discovery on the U.S. market of high-quality counterfeit dollars coming from Argentina.

Chile

Pinochet Speaks on 'Obstacles' of Fruit Crisis

PY2103011289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Address to the nation by President Augusto Pinochet from La Moneda Palace in Santiago; no date specified—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I am addressing you after our country has begun to overcome, with effort and tenacity, the first obstacles of a serious crisis, the future implications and repercussions of which we still do not know. I therefore wanted to convey a message of hope and encouragement to every Chilean, to show them my feelings at this time of deep reflection.

From the very moment I learned about this terrorist economic aggression, I ordered the creation of four ministerial commissions to tackle the problem. I also sent two ministers to the United States to meet with U.S. Government officials. After tiring sessions of talks, these ministers managed to overcome a substantial part of the grape problem. The problem affecting other fruits remains to be solved.

This new attack against the Chilean nation, an attack that destiny has placed in the nation's path of freedom, progress, and well-being, compels us to close ranks behind the government, unified and ready to fight—with courage and high spirit—the problem that faces us.

On this occasion the country has seen how the countless threats to boycott the national economy have worked. Most of the time such threats have been promoted by certain politicians, labor leaders, or Communist labor unions, both at home and abroad. They are the ones who—driven by personal or ideological interest—have continually jeopardized the stability of workers, of families, and of those whom they demagogically call their fellow countrymen. They do not care if they cause unemployment, poverty, and hunger to 500,000 fellow citizens who work in this agricultural activity.

How shamelessly they make claims and demands, offering their support and their solidarity when Chile is seriously threatened! Yet when the danger is over, they change their attitude and again level charges against the government and criticize its actions. In doing that they fail to recall that from its very beginning the Chilean nation has been built upon non-negotiable principles because they are the essence of the national soul.

Gentlemen: Our will is based on our feeling of unity in the face of adversity, whether from the action of nature or from the action of treacherous, disturbed minds that recognize no moral values, fatherland, or law.

Chileans: A few days ago I reported on the steps forward in the institutionalization process and on the progress that our country has made in all fields.

The fact that cyanide has been injected into two exported grapes has caused incalculable damage to the economy; it has also brought the shadow of anguish and uncertainty to thousands of homes of fellow countrymen whose jobs and, consequently, their legitimate right to a livelihood have been dramatically jeopardized. It is unfortunate that some officials of importing countries, without weighing the true effects of this type of measure, have restricted the import of Chilean fruits, thus provoking fear and distrust on the international consumer market. Gentlemen, we must reverse this situation.

We should once again act in a united manner to recover international confidence and our undisputed leadership as exporters. I am sure that we will succeed with a new joint effort.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we draw our strength from our history, from the unity of the Chilean people, and from the staunch decision of this government to implement each and every measure necessary to attain the goal we have set.

Within this framework I have ordered, among other things, that a draft bill be sent to the honorable government junta. This bill will give the state the option to purchase part of the fruit earmarked for export at a price that will permit, within a short period of time, the resumption of the harvesting and processing of the fruit. Thus, the workers of this sector will retain their jobs that guarantee the well-being and sustenance of their families.

At the same time, exporters will retain their incentives and control will be exercised to guarantee the best possible marketing procedures. I have also instructed the appropriate officials to facilitate agreements between fruit-producing enterprises and the financial sector in order to make it possible for the producers to continue their farming activities and comply at the same time with their commercial and financial obligations.

The necessary steps will be taken to allow enterprises which due to the crisis may go bankrupt or experience severe financial difficulties to make use of the foreign debt capitalization mechanisms.

Lastly, and in keeping with the concern that the government has always felt toward the Chilean workers, I have deemed it necessary to order the immediate implementation of special employment programs in areas affected by the fruit crisis. These programs are designed to benefit those harmed most. For this the government has allocated approximately 3 billion pesos.

Fellow countrymen: The measures listed above would have been impossible if the government had not carried out stable, coherent, and reliable economic policies, free from populist approaches and unbridled demagogery. Our policies, which have been irresponsibly criticized by many sectors, have proved their effectiveness beyond any doubt and have allowed the country to build up its reserves and enjoy a balanced fiscal situation. These reserves now come in very handy to cope with an emergency as serious as the one we have just gone through.

As long as I remain the supreme ruler of this country, you may rest assured that no fellow countryman will ever be neglected. On the contrary, Chileans whose jobs and chances for a decent living may be jeopardized will always get help.

Chileans: It is my duty to warn the citizenry that this attack on our fatherland will not be the last one. We are facing a new type of aggression that has no precedent in our country: economic terrorism.

The objective of this type of attack is to hurt the great Chilean family because it affects each and every Chilean man and woman who work hard for an honest living.

Fellow countrymen: Once again we have stood up to a despicable and cowardly aggression by those who do not want to be free. All sectors of the population must remain on the alert to publicly reject those who, for the sake of their ideology, betray their fatherland without caring who gets hurt in the process.

Chileans: As I conclude this speech I urge all Chileans to unite because this unity is the basis for the material and spiritual greatness of this noble people, who have attained the right to choose their own path and build their future as a free, thriving, and fully sovereign nation through sustained effort, persevernce, and dedication. Viva Chile!

Blasts 'Economic Terrorism'

PY1803131489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Report from Loncoche by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] Alluding to the U.S. embargo on Chilean fruit exports, which he (?described) as an action promoted by Marxism, the president of the Republic denounced the implementation of a new type of terrorism in the world—economic terrorism.

The head of state announced that out of concern for this problem he has signed a note addressed to the government junta. In the note, which has been classified urgent, a proposal is made to grant loans, purchase a portion of the export-type production, and pay indemnities in order to keep going the fruit production activities and the workers involved, who have been seriously affected by the disruption in marketing their products abroad.

Speaking during a luncheon at the 16th agricultural-livestock-industrial-artisans fair of Loncoche, the head of state emphasized the crucial time the country is experiencing in connection with the embargo on fruit exports to the United States.

Shortly before his speech, the head of state was informed about the U.S. initiative to cancel restrictions and lift the embargo on Chilean fruit.

President Pinochet nonetheless pointed out that we are seeing a crude demonstration of the fact that there are no values of material goods that can remain unscathed against the action of disturbed and insane minds who can harm thousands of Chileans and their families.

This plot, he added, represents a treacherous attack on thousands of Chileans who have found an honest way of earning a living in farm labor. Pinochet told farm hands that they will never be neglected. He also asked them to keep their faith and hope.

Pinochet recalled that this incident is just another example of the actions promoted by international Marxism and the interest groups linked to international Marxism, which have been a scourge on us for the past 16 years.

[Bgin Pinochet recording] This is not (?all). In 1986 they failed in their attempt to kill the president, introduce weapons to promote a civil war, and isolate us internationally.

They [words indistinct] terrorism, and they have found a new way of trying to destroy Chile. This has always been their goal, to subject Chile to totalitarianism, which they consider [words indistinct].

The country has experienced new methods lately, involving the threat to poison our fruit products, because this is enough to establish a new type of terrorism in the world—economic terrorism. [end recording]

The head of state added that this new type of attack—supported by Marxist sectors and facilitated by roving politicians, who are now shamelessly expressing surprise and concern, but who do not hesitate to paralyze the country—is something that has already spread almost worldwide.

Following the ceremony at the Loncoche fair, the head of state conducted military activities in the afternoon.

Fruit Crisis Labeled 'Imperialistic Maneuver'
PY1703162289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Commentary by Lawyer Pablo Rodriguez Grez]

[Text] Dear listeners, this week's most important incident was related to our fruit exports to the United States. This problem has upset the entire Chilean society. This is a normal reaction, because the incident affects not only the fruit exporters but also the rural workers, the packing plant workers, and the transportation workers. In short, it affects an enormous number of people.

I want you to follow my reasoning. What has happened can be called, at least, odd. I believe this incident to be odd because, so far this year, Chile has already exported 48 million boxes of fruit. Out of these 48 million boxes, U.S. Health Service officials have identified one box. Inside this box they have identified one bunch, and in this bunch they have found two grapes contaminated with cyanide. If we consider how many million grapes are packed in 48 million boxes, we will realize that the percentage is infinitesimal. To make things worse, the cyanide found in these two grapes is not enough—as President Pinochet said so well—to kill a single mouse.

What has happened? What is the matter? How is it possible that two contaminated grapes can be identified from the immense quantity of fruit exported by Chile? I believe that these facts must be relentlessly investigated.

Where were the grapes contaminated? In Chilean territory? In Chilean ports? On board the vessel that was carrying the fruit? In the destination port? Under the U.S. officials' noses? I frankly believe that there is something hidden behind all these facts. I believe this is sabotage. Now we have to wonder who is the saboteur.

In my opinion, only two groups are interested in sabotaging Chilean fruit exports. First, we have the terrorists who are interested in destabilizing the Chilean economy. Second, we have the trade rivals who are fighting for control of the international fruit markets. These are the only two groups that may have any interest in creating such great problems for Chile.

The other question is: How could the United States make such a drastic decision in so little time? How can it justify such a serious decision if it is well known that the U.S. people, the U.S. consumers, are not running any real risk? How is it that, in less than 24 hours, the main U.S. television networks started to broadcast the news from coast to coast? How could they, on such a short notice, be asking the listeners, in sensationalistic terms, not to consume Chilean fruits that might kill them? I believe, dear listeners, that there is an imperialistic maneuver behind all that.

The program proposed by the National and Popular Front [Frente Nacional y Popular] that launched my presidential candidacy has defined our philosophy as anti-imperialistic. Although several political groups, mostly the Chilean right, have been shocked by this position, I am entirely convinced that the United States of America will never allow Latin American countries to develop economically. The U.S. Government is interested in strengthening its influence over our countries, in maintaining our position as dependent countries. To prove what I am saying, I will remind you that our balance of trade has been deteriorating daily. The price of the industrial products we buy from the United States and other developed countries is higher by the day, while the price of our raw material is constantly decreasing.

Do you realize, dear listeners, how much we have lost as the result of this deterioration in 15 years? Pay attention please, because the amount is unbelievable. We have lost $40 billion. In practical terms, these $40 billion have been saved by the United States and the other powerful, industrialized countries. I am trying to make you understand that, if in these 15 years we had received for the raw materials the same price we received 15 years ago

and had paid the same 15-year-old prices for the industrial goods, Chile would not have a foreign debt. Chile would have a $20-billion surplus.

To make things worse, now that our economy is beginning to recover and develop, now that we are beginning to conquer the international fruit market, we are informed of this odd incident of the cyanide-contaminated grapes.

We are informed that, out of the 48 million boxes of fruit, the U.S. Health Service officials have chosen the exact box that contains the two contaminated grapes. We learn that, as a result, they launch a sensationalistic campaign warning the U.S. consumers against the danger of consuming Chilean fruit. The sensationalistic campaign does not stop there, however. They then contacted Canada, Japan, and the European countries and warned those governments against the danger of consuming the sabotaged Chilean fruit, which pose a life-threatening risk.

The Chilean people have reacted calmly to this extremely serious problem. We would have understood and accepted the measures if the contaminated fruit had really represented any danger to the lives of consumers—no matter what their nationality. Considering, however, that the amount of cyanide was infinitesimal, that it represented no harm whatsoever to human lives, how can we understand a decision that harms so many workers and producers and, ultimately, harms a country that has been growing, thanks to the sacrifice, effort, and tenacity of its people? How can we understand measures that harm a country whose efforts have been praised by several U.S. organizations?

I want to point out certain reactions to this horrible problem. The patriotism of a certain lawyer and businessman has impressed me very much. I was very much impressed by the reaction of Ricardo Claro Valdes, the chairman of the Chilean-U.S. Cultural Institute, who has tendered his resignation and placed his position at the disposal of the Institute's board, because he considered the U.S. measure intolerable and could not accept the U.S. decision to report the news to the rest of the world, thus clearly boycotting our fruit exports.

Chile is exposed to the malignant influence of U.S. imperialism. They will never allow us to develop. First there was the oil crisis. Then there was the great 1982 financial crisis. Now there is the fruit export crisis. Tomorrow there will be another crisis to prevent us from developing and growing. No matter how much we struggle to grow and develop, we will never succeed in doing so, because there is a great force preventing our success. This force is the U.S. desire to destroy us, to keep us poor.

There are two great imperialistic forces in our world: Soviet imperialism and U.S. imperialism. The only way the poor and weak developing countries can counteract imperialistic pressure is to unite in a Latin American movement. This is why I request three things: first, that a relentless investigation be conducted so that we can really find out who is responsible for this catastrophe; second, that the imperialistic maneuvers to prevent our development be disclosed to all Latin American countries; and third, and this may be my most important request, that a lawsuit be filed against the U.S. Government. This lawsuit may be filed before the U.S. Courts or before international courts. All that matters, however, is that we are compensated for the intentional damage aimed at preventing Chile from developing, from implementing its peaceful transition to democracy, from becoming a leader among the Latin American countries that are seeking unity as a way of solving the common Latin American difficulties.

Please think about my words, dear listeners. They will make you realize the extent of the danger posed by the imperialistic maneuvers aimed at harassing us, destroying us, preventing us from becoming a developed, sovereign country. Thank you very much.

Restrictions Against Japanese Ships Denied

PY1703211989 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Report from La Moneda Palace by Pia Diaz]

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Colonel Ramon Valdez has denied that any ships have been banned from fishing in Chilean waters.

The acting foreign minister denied the remarks made by Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino who said that some Japanese ships are being held in reprisal for the Japanese embargo on Chilean fruit.

[Begin Valdez recording] We do not have any information on this issue. However, if this were the case, there would be no justification for it because, I repeat, there are no restrictions, and no restrictions have been imposed on any foreign ships, even Japanese ships.

We are completely unaware that any Japanese ships are being held. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

PY2003204189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Upon returning from the United States, Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz stated that an agreement was reached with the United States regarding grape imports but that some technical aspects still need to be studied further.

Errazuriz said he cannot give further details of the talks he held in Washington because he has to inform the president first. He said that an agreement was reached on a plan for normalization, but that some technical aspects are still pending.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] We have achieved an agreement on a normalization plan, although some points are still pending.

President Pinochet ordered that I should travel to the United States to deal with diplomatic matters, and that Agriculture Minister de la Sotta should deal with the technical aspects. There are some points still pending, but there is a commission working on it in Santiago, as instructed by President Pinochet. Some of these points have been analyzed by Finance and Interior Ministers Buchi and Caceres, respectively. They have already made the appropriate analysis, and there is an important work group studying this plan, which is essential for the normalization of the situation.

The Foreign Ministry is also carrying out its task abroad, studying the diplomatic aspects and studying with international organizations this unprecedented situation, which is an act of vandalism that has caused tremendous economic damage. [end recording]

The foreign minister added that an important change has taken place in U.S. public opinion regarding the grape poisoning issue. He said that in the beginning the U.S. people reacted very cautiously, but that a more exhaustive analysis was made later, as observed in the editorials of the main U.S. newspapers.

Errazuriz returned to the country shortly after 1000 this morning aboard a LAN Chile plane. In the United States he held meetings with Vice President Dan Quayle, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, Secretary of State James Baker, and representatives of the U.S. Congress.

Almeyda Gives News Conference in East Berlin

AU1703215389 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 16 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—Democracy will be restored in Chile in the near future. Clodomiro Almeyda, general secretary of the Socialist Party of Chile, told a news conference in Berlin on Wednesday [15 March] that the Chilean opposition is convinced of this, following the victory in the plebiscite held in October last year. The will to bring about unity among all democratic forces in order to meet the challenges of the presidential election in December this year prevails in Chile. If the opposition succeeds in unifying itself, it will win the elections, Almeyda pointed out.

The task of the new government will be to restore democracy in Chile within a period of about 2 years. Enormous problems will have to be solved in this connection. The role of the military within society will be crucial for Chile's further development. Far-reaching changes are required here, otherwise democracy will not be stable, the politician stressed.

The Chile that has developed under military dictatorship is fundamentally different from the Chile before the 1979 coup. At present, Chilean society is divided by a deep abyss in a Chile of the rich and a Chile of the poor, the party leader emphasized. The unquestionable successes in the field of the economy are accompanied by a decline in the sphere of health and education, by poverty and a lack of prospects for the young.

PDC Issues Guidelines; Endorses Aylwin

PY1703142689 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] will work for a government that will have the active support and participation of the 17 parties that make up the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD], and of other social organizations.

This position was established by a vote that the PDC approved last night and which PDC National Secretary Gutenberg Martinez disclosed today.

[Begin Gutenberg Martinez recording in progress] ...to reassert its willingness to establish agreements within the framework of the CPPD. This will help us achieve the same unity that led us to victory in the plebiscite. It will also help achieve a definitive democracy.

The complex and difficult tasks involved in transition and the challenges we must confront as a nation demand a government that is supported by various sectors. We need a government that will be supported by the commitment and active participation of all parties in the CPPD and of all social sectors that have participated in our long struggle to recover democracy.

We hope, therefore, that the parties of the CPPD will define the extent, context, and conditions of their responsibility and commitment to the future government. [end recording]

The PDC decision adds that the participation in the next administration must not be based on political quotas. On the contrary, only the most capable people should be appointed to those positions that will be responsible for implementing government programs. It will be up to the president to exert his constitutional right to appoint his government team.

The PDC decision states that for the administration to be successful, it must not base its plans on political ideological commitments. This should be a moderate and programmatic administration, an administration that seeks efficacy in a realistic manner.

The document that establishes the PDC political guidelines notes the willingness of the PDC to achieve a governability pact with political groups no matter what position they took in the last plebiscite.

[Begin Gutenberg Martinez recording] We also reassert our decision to achieve a national governability pact. We are obviously talking about two different things: One is a government program, the other is a government support program.

In this regard we express our willingness to achieve a national governability pact that can include all national political forces, regardless of whether they supported the no-vote or the yes-vote in the last plebiscite. This national governability pact will seek to establish the institutional basis that will be the cornerstone of the future democratic administration.

Among the great agreements needed to help the administration govern, we need a social pact between workers and businessmen and an understanding between the civilian sector and the Armed Forces. [end recording]

The PDC decision also reasserts PDC willingness to support the nomination of a single opposition presidential candidate. It adds that the PDC hopes this nominee will be Patricio Aylwin, but it expresses a willingness to consider other candidates.

The PDC document also expresses a willingness to achieve a legislative agreement with other CPPD members.

[Begin Gutenberg Martinez recording] We reassert our willingness to reach agreements in the legislature that will help us form a large majority opposition bloc which will represent the democratic forces in the next stages. We believe a majority bloc should be a proportional multiparty bloc that is established on equal terms.

We also wish to say that it is not our intention to take advantage of the unfair advantages that the present electoral law or the majority electoral system imposed by the regime may grant the PDC. [end recording]

The PDC political document states that those demands to amend the Constitution that have been rejected will be automatically included in the PDC platform and they will form part of the objectives of the CPPD. These demands include an electoral system based on equal terms, a proportional representation system, amendments to the political parties law, and human rights.

The PDC rejects the regime's intention to perpetuate itself in power by consolidating the current power structure and by depriving the future democratic government of its ability to lead.

The PDC, along with the other CPPD members, is determined to defeat, once and for all, the regime and its senseless intention to perpetuate itself in power.

Communists Outline Proposal, Oppose Terrorism

PY1803153089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] In their effort to resume legal political activities—that is, to assume rights and responsibilities before the people—the Chilean Communists have again made a notorious move, as the popular saying goes, to sell us a miracle cream.

PCCh [Communist Party of Chile] political committee members have met with newsmen to announce an outline of the proposals made by their widely publicized 15th congress. They stated that—listeners, hold on to something—that they have deeply democratic beliefs, and that they are avowed enemies of terrorism.

In a long statement—which was only partially read, thank God, by Mario Aguirre—the PCCh urged opposition sectors not to let themselves be deceived by the insane anti-Communist phobia unleashed in our country.

The Communists complained about the unfair treatment they are receiving from the press, including media organizations affiliated with the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. They charged that an ongoing campaign to isolate the PCCh has intensified.

The Reds claim there is a great desire to hurt them, and that a simple horizontal discussion—whatever that means—is interpreted as a schism within the PCCh.

The PCCh leaders noted that the PCCh has been criticized only by a few militants and that this was in keeping with a spirit of renovation, on which, strangely enough, Gorbachev's perestroyka will have no major effect, despite what many people might expect.

When discussing their renovation plans, the Chilean Communists digressed and failed to state whether they will make changes in the ideological or military areas; that is, if they will continue to arm subversive groups against the people.

Arguing plaintively against their critics, who come even from the ranks of the opposition coalition, the Communists went as far as charging that they have been forced into a civic ghetto, thus adopting a skillfully worded slogan. The Reds are masters at using words to their advantage. They consistently advocate the rebellion of the popular masses, which is only designed to cause continual unrest among the people.

The communists regard opposition sectors as ungrateful for failing to recognize that the protests organized by the PCCh had a major effect on the outcome of the plebiscite. They concluded by describing as wonderful the PDC political vote, even though the PCCh is not included among the Pact of the 17.

It has been rumored that perhaps the Communists have a secret pact with the PDC, and that they are thus determined to continue to deceive the Chilean people.

Aylwin Views PCCh Support of Candidacy

PY1903005089 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Mar 89 p C-3

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Patricio Aylwin said yesterday that the fact that the PCCh finally announced that it will support the CPPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy] candidate in the upcoming elections is positive news. He warned, however, that "this support does not involve any commitment on my part."

Aylwin made this remark when he was asked if in a meeting held with Broad Party of the Socialist Left (PAIS) President Luis Maira they discussed the public performance of PCCh leaders. Aylwin was also asked about his opinion on the support expressed by rank-and-file militants of an Estacion Central PCCh committee for his nomination as presidential candidate.

Concerning the latter point, Aylwin said: "I do not know what support entails. I have not received any additional information other than what was published in the newspapers. Now then, our position vis-a-vis the PCCh is very well known. If the PCCh finally supports the CPPD candidate with its votes, it will be positive. I do not believe, however, that this involves any commitment on my part."

Aylwin added: "On the other hand, I believe it is unacceptably ambiguous for the PCCh to say it is willing to participate in the electoral process and, at the same time, that it supports the position of popular rebellion and all forms of struggle. My party and I clearly disagree with this position and we do not have to repeat this every day."

Asked about remarks made abroad by Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front leader Sergio Buschmann, who said that Aylwin's nomination as a presidential candidate has been imposed by the United States and is tied to supporting the current economic model, Aylwin said that he was unaware of the remark. He added: "I do not know where this gentleman got this information. These remarks are completely groundless and I do not attach any importance to them."

DC Leader Saldivar Clarifies Platform

PY2003134989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Vice President Andres Saldivar has said that his party's political position has been misunderstood over its agreement to form an opposition government with the 17 members of the so-called Coalition of Parties for Democracy [Concertacion de Partidos por la Democracia—CPPD]. It has been said that if things do not change, the PDC will again go to the elections in a tight pact with hard line opposition groups that clearly are Marxists.

In the past few hours, however, Saldivar has tried to present his party's political decision with another meaning.

[Begin Saldivar recording] The characteristics of the government of transition to carry out a moderate, pragmatic, efficient, and realistic administration which will not be subject to party dogma or to partisan influences. Although our political decision could be misunderstood, and we recognize that the people have the right to interpret it as critically as they want, we have not decided on a center-left, left, 17-party, or 22-party government. [end recording]

Saldivar added that the PDC favors a government program that will maintain the positive achievements of the government of the Armed Forces and the forces of order.

'Terrorist' Attack Blacks Out Santiago Districts

PY2103024889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] A terrorist attack this afternoon blacked out La Cisterna, San Bernardo, and Maipu districts in Santiago. The blackout lasted 18 minutes.

Guillermo Amunategui, public relations officer of CHILECTRA [Chilean Electric Company, Ltd.], reported that the attack took place at 1715 this afernoon. A bomb went off at the base of high-voltage pylon No 41 of the Buin-Ochagavia powerline, which is part of the metropolitan grid. As a result of this attack, southwestern Santiago was left without power for 18 minutes.

Finance Minister Cancels Trip To IDB Meeting

PY1803014289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has canceled his trip to the Netherlands. He was scheduled to travel there to participate in an IDB meeting in Amsterdam.

Buchi canceled his trip due to the Chilean fruit crisis.

Central Bank Chairman Enrique Seguel will head the Chilean delegation to this meeting, replacing Buchi.

Colombia

ELN Expresses Willingness To 'Humanize' War

PA2003143889 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 10

[Letter addressed by the National Liberation Army to the "Committee of Notables"; dated 28 February]

[Text]

Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelsen

Cardinal Msgr Mario Revollo Bravo

Dr Misael Pastrana Borrero

Dr Fabio Echeverry Correa

Illustrious committee members: Because of the favorable influence the goodwill committee you compose can have for Colombia, we hereby reiterate to you and the country our political willingness to negotiate with the government an accord to humanize the war.

Our organization is mainly concerned over how we Colombians can cope with our society's greatest scourge, the dirty war. Barco's government does not want to admit before the country and the world that it is politically and morally responsible for the unending bloodshed into which the nation has been sunk.

We have already demonstrated the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's willingness to adopt the humanitarian principles established by the Geneva Convention. Our latest gesture has been to release the prisoners we took during the occupation of Valencia, Cauca Department. These former prisoners can attest that they were treated correctly.

Our action contrasts sharply with both the way the government and the Army have been treating the civilian population and the guerrillas captured and the impunity with which the paramilitary groups have been operating. One example of the latter is the treacherous attack on Teofilo Forero, a Communist leader. Actions such as this attack and what happened to Dr Jaime Pardo Leal move the nation and demand the application of justice.

Because of the country's current situation, our organization cannot think of anything else other than confronting the dirty war and humanizing the conflict.

Illustrious commissioners: The hard Colombian reality has triggered the confrontation of groups that uphold principles at variance with each other. We hope you will interpose your good offices before the government, the International Red Cross Committee, and those party and institution members who believe advancing an agreement to humanize the war is equivalent to civilizing the conflict, benefiting the population, and maintaining the homeland's dignity.

Manuel Perez Martinez, in charge of the political affairs of the National Liberation Army [ELN] Central Command

Nicolas Rodriguez B., in charge of the military affairs of the ELN Central Command

FARC Confirms Cease-Fire to President

PA2003194889 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 10

[Letter entitled "Cease Fascism" from the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces to President Virgilio Barco, "from the mountains of Colombia"; date not given]

[Text] Mr President:

Say something, do something. The country is dissolving in your hands while you say everything is going very well. Everything points to the pack of hounds' finalizing details to launch a war against the possibility of peace. It seems as if the dirty war, the most brutal and ridiculous of wars, has already been unleashed.

Priests, congressmen from all parties, political leaders, labor leaders, merchants, industrialists, university professors, students, intellectuals, judges, laborers, peasants, and common people have been murdered by henchmen of the military; they have been massacred as in Mejor Esquina, La Rochela, Uraba, Segovia, Medellin, and 20 more towns in various parts of the country, in a bloodbath of unprecedented levels in Colombian history.

Does the government know when the bloody drama we are experiencing will end? Security is the core of the state—does the government know what that fascist doctrine is? Does it know that that doctrine considers every nonfascist action a subversive action that should be countered with violence, terror, torture, and forced disappearances? Does the government remember what happened to the world when a pair of madmen—Hitler and Mussolini—unleashed World War II, a war that still horrifies people on earth? Has the president and his ministers read the anguished cry of a columnist in a prestigious liberal magazine read throughout the nation?

In any event, allow us to cite a passage: "Apocalyptic beasts are stalking our dreams and our hopes. Horror permeates the lives of compatriots who have made the mistake of getting in the way of the designs of those who consider themselves masters and lords of the fatherland's future, confusing it with their own tinsel-laden future. They are self-styled champions of a society that receives nothing from them except the history of their offensive wealth and their contempt for the lot of the poor. This is a cyclical occurrence, and its blows threaten to destroy the collective desire to coexist in peace, to tolerate the vast spectrum of our differences, and to overcome the long, dark night of violence."

In a moving speech in front of the grave of one of his ministers who had recently been murdered, a president of the Republic cried out "Halt, enemies of mankind!" Everyone believed the beasts' ability to shock us when their messages of death had reached its limit. We were all mistaken. The trail of blood and tragedy has become increasingly larger. It seems as if we have lost our ability to be shocked, but even more so, it seems as if we have

lost the ability to become enraged with those who are trying to rend this nation asunder. Terror has immobilized our consciences. The nation is becoming insensitive, but there is still time to cry out and wrest some strength from the bottom of our dignity as individuals and as a nation. These wars and miniwars are not ours; therefore, we have the right to demand that we be allowed to live in peace.

We have to agree upon the time and the place in which to react. There stands Gaitan, with his demonstration of silence as if it were an army. Who knows, perhaps all of a sudden we will be able to react. The lives and struggles of our forefathers deserve more than a nation of cowards. Let us stop being cowed. There are millions upon millions of Colombians who want to end the violence while they, the beasts of violence, are an insignificant part of our society. We have the right and the duty to demand they stop terrorizing our fatherland, but to do this we can and must end our differences.

In the midst of rivers of blood, we can unite our people in the battle for peace. In his prayer for peace, Gaitan said: "We descend from men of courage, from those who wiped out tyranny from our fatherland." Addressing the incumbent president, he said: "Mr President: Serenely, calmly, with the emotion that has imbued the spirit of the citizens who have filled up this square, we ask you to exercise your mandate, that mandate the people have given you to return peace to the entire nation. It all depends on you. Those who are drenching our entire fatherland in blood would halt their blind treachery. The simple expression of your will would stay the hand of those ill-intended spirits. Mr President: On this occasion we are not asking for economic or political policies; we are simply asking you to keep the fatherland from straying onto paths that bring us shame before our countrymen and foreigners alike. We ask you for deeds of peace and of civilized society."

For our part, with even more reasons than yesterday, when we addressed former Presidents Misael Pastrana and Alfonso Lopez, Cardinal Mario Revollo, and Drs Fabio Echeverry and Hernando Santos, we confirm our unilateral cease-fire and reiterate our will to contribute in every possible way to find paths of peace for our long-suffering Colombia.
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] General Staff
Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board
Manuel Marulanda, Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, Timoleon Jimenez, the Mountains of Colombia

Government Increases Transportation Fares

PA2103025489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Summary] The Colombian Government has just announced a 15.3-percent increase in interurban transportation fares. The new fares will go in effect tomorrow.

Ecuador

AVC Spokesman on Renunciation of Armed Struggle

PA2003233489 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 9 Mar 89 p 8

[Text] Quito—"Alfaro Lives" [AVC] will remain alert to what happens in the country, because proposing definitive solutions has always been the AVC's practice, said official spokesman Pedro J. Moncada, after reading a document to the country in which the AVC declares that it is joining civilian life and laying down its weapons.

Moncada stated that the AVC has no intention of becoming a political party because it believes Ecuador has enough political parties. Instead, the AVC will—with certain exceptions, of course—ensure that selfish and individual interests are not placed above national interests.

Moncada stressed that the AVC still exists, adding that "we are a political force, otherwise you reporters would not be here."

Moncada stressed that the AVC is a tightly knit group, bent on attaining dialogue and national agreement without vested interests.

Moncada also discussed the document drafted by the AVC leadership. Asked whether there were any divisions within the AVC, Moncada said the answer to that question could be found in the document.

The AVC spokesman added that the group wishes that all parts of society could lay the foundations to resolve the nation's most urgent problems through dialogue and a national agreement.

Thus, Moncada added, we are not up to any tricks.

When asked about accusations made by two former security officers that AVC followers took part, together with the previous administration, in a series of illegal acts, Moncada replied that this is somewhat ludicrous because the country knows only too well how the AVC was treated by the previous administration.

Defense Minister Denies Report on Army Document

PA1703230589 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] In a communique addressed to the Ecuadoran Armed Forces through the order of the day, Defense Minister Jorge Felix said he never intended to turn a deaf ear to, much less denounce, statements or concerns expressed by any of the branches of the Armed Forces.

In the communique, read in all the country's military garrisons, Felix expanded on remarks he made about a document drafted by the Army Staff regarding the pardoning of former Taura Base commandos. Felix said in the communique that his remarks about the Army document were distorted by a newspaper, which he did not identify.

According to the newspaper report, the defense minister said the Army document was not taken into consideration but tossed into a trash can, from where it was picked up by somebody else who used it for other purposes.

This newspaper version of Felix's remarks reportedly disturbed Army officers. In the communique, the minister called on the Armed Forces not to believe distorted reports and to remain devoted to accomplishing the noble tasks conferred upon them by the Constitution.

Paraguay

Rodriguez, Alfonsin To Meet 20 April

PY1803174289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 13

[Excerpt] It has been learned from official sources that Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will meet on Thursday, 20 April, at the site of the future Paraguayan-Argentine yacyreta hydroelectric dam.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana told ULTIMA HORA that it is virtually confirmed that the meeting will be held on the above date. Argentine Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry will arrive here on 20 March at the head of a delegation to arrange details of the agenda and the schedule the two presidents will follow during their Yacyreta meeting. [passage omitted]

Colorado Party Factions Unite, Share Seats

PY2103024689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Mar 89 p 8

[Text] An agreement distributing seats on the Colorado executive board and in the future national Congress was signed yesterday by the various Colorado factions. A harmonious atmosphere prevailed among the Colorado factions.

The agreement establishes the number of seats allotted to each faction within the executive board, but it includes no names. Of the 35 seats for full members of the executive board, 23 seats will be assigned to the Traditionalist faction and 12 seats to the other factions. Of the 15 alternate members, 9 seats will be allotted to the Traditionalist faction and 6 to the remaining factions. Thus, 66 percent of the seats will be allotted to the Traditionalist faction and 34 percent to the factions that are being reintegrated within the party.

The list of candidates for congressional seats will be submitted before 22 March, the deadline that was agreed upon during the meeting. The names proposed by one faction cannot be vetoed or questioned by the other factions.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Dr Luis Maria Argana said that the agreement reached is proof of "the extraordinary maturity achieved by the Colorado leaders. We have clearly proved that we share the same ideological principles and, consequently, we have all given up something in order to achieve a mutually satisfactory agreement." Argana summed up the historic significance of the Colorado unity in two phrases: "Everything unites us; nothing separates us. There have been no winners or losers in this unity."

A document establishing the unity of the Colorado factions was signed yesterday by representatives of the various factions, including the Ethical and Doctrinaire Movement, Mopoco, the National Republican Association in Exile and Resistance, and the National Mopoco. The following leaders attended the meeting: Dr Luis Maria Argana, Dr Edgar L. Insfran. The following former dissidents attended: Enrique Riera, Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, Waldino Ramon Lovera, Miguel Angel Ramirez, Luis Becker, Rolando Elizeche, Leopoldo Ostertag, and Martin Valiente Gomez.

In addition to allotting seats on the executive board to the former dissident factions, it was also agreed at the meeting—which was held in a calm atmosphere—to allot seats in the future Congress. Of the 24 seats the Colorado Party expects to win in the Senate, 16 seats will be allotted to the Traditionalist faction and 8 to the remaining factions; of the 14 seats for alternate senators, 9 seats will be allotted to the Traditionalist faction and 5 to the former dissidents.

The distribution of seats at the Chamber of Deputies will be as follows: Of the 48 seats the Colorado Party expects to win, 32 will be allotted to the Traditionalist faction and 16 to the other factions; of the 28 seats for alternate deputies, 19 will be allotted to Traditionalists and 9 to the former dissidents.

Internal Elections Cause 'Angry Protests'

PY2003160789 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 89 p 10

[Excerpt] One of the most heated internal elections in the past 40 years took place yesterday when the ruling Colorado Party held its election of authorities in party chapters in the country's interior.

Irregularities at voting centers were reported, including the theft of ballot boxes, violent demonstrations against authorities of the party's Government Board, and angry protests over alleged frauds to favor some candidates.

In Itagua, Edgar Stanley, head of the Government Board delegation that presided over the local election, left the voting site injured after his car was attack by the crowd, who broke its windows. The electoral assembly was suspended.

An angry group headed by Juan Servin Arce came from Paraguari to the central party headquarters in Asuncion. They asked that the electoral assembly be canceled, calling the head of the party Government Board delegation Dr Angel Roberto Seifart a bandit.

In Itagua, ballot boxes were stolen from several voting tables, and the situation became chaotic when the voting place was attacked by members of one of the movements running for election.

Another group of party members from Limpio showed up in front of the party's central headquarters in Asuncion to shout their discontent, but no one heard them because the members of the Electoral Commission had already left the party headquarters. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Agrees to Election Observers

PY2003125089 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Mar p 11

[Interview with President Andres Rodriguez during his visit to the Consorcio de Ingenieria Electromecanica Company industrial plant in Isla Bogado, Luque, on 17 March]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Question] The opposition is seriously questioning the validity of the registers that were used in the fraudulent elections under the Stroessner regime. These same documents will be used again in the upcoming elections. What's your opinion on this?

[Rodriguez] Well, the truth is that I am not very well-informed on this issue. The Electoral Board is the only body that should be well-informed on this.

[Question] Would you be willing to accept the presence of foreign observers to verify that the elections are clean?

[Rodriguez] Most certainly! This time we want to set an example of fair and open election. There is no intention of perpetrating any sort of fraud.

[Question] Don't you believe that the Colorado Party Government Junta should also invite "the militants" [diehard Stroessner followers] to participate in that party's organization?

[Rodriguez] They have all been invited. The party's government junta is already made up of all factions of the Colorado Party. All the factions are in fact united....

[Question] There are no "militants" in the party junta. Should they be invited or not?

[Rodriguez] Well, perhaps the Colorado Party president should decide that after consulting with the party government junta.

[Question] Elections are also drawing near in Argentina. Would you prefer to have the neighboring country governed by the UCR or the Justicialists?

[Rodriguez] I cannot give any opinion on another country. The Argentines will have to decide who will be their president. For us, as a neighboring country, any one of the two will do provided they have good intentions toward us.

[Question] Do you maintain a friendship with Carlos Menem?

[Rodriguez] I know him...but I can't say we are friends-...because we are always separated. He is over there and I am here. And because of my military functions, I could not have any contact with him. [passage omitted]

Another Former Pro-Stroessner Deputy Released

PY1703202689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] Francisco Solano Benitez, a former Colorado deputy who was being held at police headquarters with other former high officials of the previous government, was released yesterday morning.

Like Martin Chila and Ubaldo Centurion Morinigo, who were also prominent members of the "Militant Faction" of the Colorado Party, Benitez was released without having to stand trial. They do not face any of the various charges pressed against the members of the "Golden Four-Men Leadership." [Former Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, former presidential secretary Mario Abdo Benitez, former Justice Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet and former Health Minister Adan Godoy Gimenez]

New Neembucu Department Delegate Appointed

PY1803163189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Mar 89 pp 12, 13

[Summary] Fabio Insfran Ruiz Diaz has been appointed new executive branch delegate in Neembucu Department, replacing Mario Soto Estigarribia.

Parties Nominate Presidential Candidates

PRF Names Fernando Vera

PY2003174289 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Summary] After a long debate yesterday, PRF [Febrerist Revolutionary Party] convention delegates approved the party's participation in the 1 May general elections with its own candidates under existing conditions. However, should the conditions be notoriously unfavorable

for the democratization process, the party's National Executive Committee or 20 regional committees, as provided for in the organic charter, can meet to review the decision.

Once that decision was made, Dr Fernando Vera was unanimously named the PRF presidential candidate.

PDC Nominates Nunez

PY2003174889 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 May 89

[Summary] Another party that has decided to participate in the 1 May general elections is the Christian Democratic Party. Two names were initially proposed as presidential nominees: Luis Alfonso Resck and Dr Secundino Nunez. At one point, Resck abandoned the assembly due to disagreements with the convention procedures. The convention then elected Dr Secundino Nunez as its presidential nominee.

Workers Party Created; To Apply for Recognition

PY2003174289 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Summary] The Workers Party has been born. Mina Feliciangeli called a news conference this morning to announce the party's creation.

She said: We have called this news conference to announce that yesterday, 19 March, a convention was held to found the Workers Party, with 103 delegates in attendance. This is the result of several years worth of work by the Independent Workers Group, AIT, which has been joined by peasant leaders, particularly from the Upper Parana region. Our party will be known by the abreviation PT and will support an essential socialist platform. In time, we will apply for legal recognition.

National Socialist Party Established

PY1703190089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Mar 89 p 11

[Excerpts] The establishment of the National Socialist Party in Paraguay was announced in a bulletin that was delivered to the mass media on 10 Mar. The bulletin is signed by Gustavo Bader Ibanez, a pharmacist. [passage omitted]

The bulletin states: The momentous developments on 2-3 February 1989 have encouraged a group of citizens to found the National Socialist Party of Paraguay [Partido Nacional Socialista]. To this effect, we send Bulletin No 1 to this important mass media.

Gustavo Bader Ibanez, Paraguayan, identity card No 86231, herewith announces to the Paraguayan people the decision of an outstanding group of Paraguayan citizens to found the National Socialist Party in order to defend the interests of the Paraguayan people.

In the next few days we will disclose our position regarding the current political situation and the initial basic program of our party.

The National Socialist Party is temporarily headquartered at Guido Spano 2966 and Consejal Vargas Streets in Asuncion.

Our party, which is a new organization created to struggle for patriotic ideals, is convinced that it will soon turn into an important force in the country both in terms of membership and impact.

We take the opportunity to greet the honest Paraguayan people and announce that their definitive awakening to freedom has arrived. [Signed] Gustavo Bader Ibanez.

Chilean Mella Latorre Ordered To Leave Country

PY2003173689 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Interior Minister General Orlando Machuca Vargas affirmed this morning that Chilean journalist Alejandro Mella Lattorre is obviously associated with the Communist Government of Nicaragua and added that he will have to leave our country within 30 days.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] The Nicaraguan Government is communist and Mella La Torre is obviously associated with it.

[Reporter] Will his visa be extended?

[Vargas] No, his visa will not be extended under any circumstances. As far as I am concerned, his background does not justify the extension of his visa.

[Reporter] When will he have to leave the country?

[Vargas] He will have to leave the country within 30 days. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Definitely, he will not be allowed to stay in the country?

[Vargas] As far as I am concerned he must not remain in the country; definitely, he must not stay in the country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Interconnection With Argentine Power Network

PY2003211489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Mar 89 p 18

[Text] The National Power Administration (ANDE) and Argentina's water and power enterprise on 10 March signed three documents through which the two companies will carry out major cooperation activities in the area of power generation. The documents were signed in Buenos Aires.

ANDE President Engineer Zoilo Rodas Rodas told EL DIARIO that the first document will allow the barter of 2 power generators for 1,100 km of aluminum conductor.

The second document will allow the interconnection of the power networks of the two nations through a 220,000-kg line joining Guarambare and Clorinda. The third document states that the two companies will build the infrastructure for the interconnection line, which will cross over the Paraguay River.

As for the barter, ANDE will provide to the Argentine enterprise two 19.5-Mw generators with which Argentina will try to alleviate its power crisis. In return, the Argentine enterprise will provide ANDE with 1,100 km of aluminum conductor, which the ANDE will use for the 5th power transmision line between Asuncion and Itaipu.

New II, III Corps Commanders Appointed

PY2003225389 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] The Office of the Armed Force Commander in Chief has issued general and special orders contaning new appointments and assignments.

Appointments

A. Brigadier General Otello Manuel Carpinelli Yegros as acting commander of the III Corps, replacing Brigadier General Juan de Dios Garbett.

B. Brigadier General Juan de Dios Garbet as commander of the II Corps, replacing Brigadier General Ricardo Bogado Silva.

C. Colonel Gerardo Eusebio Rodriguez Britos as chief of the 3d Department of the Armed Forces General Staff, replacing Colonel Carlos Egisto Maggi.

Assignments

A. Brigadier General Ricardo Bogado Silva will be assigned to serve under the Foreign Ministry as military and Air Force attache at the Paraguayan Embassy in the United States. He will be replacing Brigadier General Trifon Gregorio Lopez Prado.

B. Colonel Carlos Egisto Maggi will be assigned to serve under the Defense Ministry as acting commander of the War College, replacing Brigadier General Otello Carpinelli Yegros.

C. Colonel Lisandro Nery Caballero Vega will be assigned to serve under the Foreign Ministry as military attache at the Paraguayan Embassy in Uruguay, replacing Colonel Crispiniano Lopez Gimenez.

New Central Bank Administrator Appointed

PY1703172789 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 12

[Summary] Dr Oscar Patricio Rodriguez Britos has been appointed the manager of the Paraguayan Central Bank. He replaces Dr. Alberto Caceres Espinoza.

New National Development Bank Head Appointed

PY1703032989 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 9

[Summary] In a brief session yesterday the Council of State approved the appointment of Jose Enrique Paez as the new president of the National Development Bank. He replaces Julio Rejis Sanguina.

Peru

'Attack' on Venezuelan Embassy Building

PY1803144089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 18 Mar (EFE)—Terrorists last night threw a bomb at the Venezuelan Embassy from a passing car. The explosives caused only material damage. Ambassador Francisco Paparoni was not in the building at the time of the incident.

The Venezuelan Embassy is located on Arequipa Avenue—Lima's main avenue—in front of the Armed Forces joint staff building.

Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the attack.

IDB To Approve $100-Million Credit in April

PY1903031089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] The IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] directorate will reportedly approve before 30 April 1989 various potable water and sewage projects worth $100 million in 22 Peruvian cities.

This announcement was made in Amsterdam today by Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rivas Davila after meeting with IDB President Enrique Iglesias. They reviewed Peru's economic situation and the IDB's projects pending approval.

More 'Effective' Anti-Drug Campaign Sought

PY2003180489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0131 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 18 Mar (EFE)—Lucio Galarza Villar, deputy chairman of the Inter-American Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CICAD), today reported that the CICAD will ask the OAS to engage in a more effective antidrug trafficking campaign.

Galarza today returned from La Paz, where he attended the fifth round of CICAD meetings. The CICAD is an OAS organization.

Galarza, who is secretary general of the Peruvian Council of Ministers, said that the CICAD will submit to the OAS a list of topics to be discussed by the ministers in charge of fighting drug trafficking. This will enable them to decide on a more effective way of fighting drug trafficking.

The ministers' meeting will probably be held in Washington in August or September.

Galarza pointed out that in Peru, which, along with Bolivia, produces the largest amount of cocaine in the world, the antidrug trafficking campaign is being successfully implemented.

As a result of this effective campaign, Peruvian drug traffickers are moving to Brazil, where they grow a plant called epadu which yields a new type of drug, Galarza said.

Uruguay

Illness of Former Tupamaros Leader 'Serious'

PY1803014089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Mar (EFE)—Sources close to the Tupamaros guerrilla organization today reported that Raul Sendic, 63, the leader of the former Tupamaros terrorist group, suffers from a serious neurologic disease and that he was taken to France to undergo specialized treatment.

The MATE AMARGO tabloid, which is the Tupamaros' mouthpiece, did not provide any details about Sendic's disease, but made it clear that the publication of Sendic's political column has been suspended because he has gone to Paris for "a medical checkup."

According to the independent weekly BUSQUEDA, Sendic is "receiving intense treatment" and it is too early to make a diagnosis.

Sendic was taken to Paris following suggestions by his physicians in Montevideo. He is suffering "neurologic disorders."

Sendic, the leader of the "National Liberation Movement" (MLN-Tupamaros), which is currently a legal organization, founded the Tupamaros terrorist organization late in the 1970's after having participated as an activist in the agrarian unions in the country's interior.

In 1972 Sendic was injured during a clash with the Armed Forces. He was held in custody until March 1985. He was released after the administration of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti approved an amnesty for the guerrillas, after 12 years of military regime.

'Indiana I' Ferry Anchored Near Montevideo

PY1903021789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0124 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Mar (TELAM)—The British ferry "Indiana I"—which made a stopover in Brazil on its way from the Malvinas Islands—is tonight in Uruguayan territorial waters. It will soon continue sailing for Punta Arenas, Chile, due to the Uruguayan Government's refusal to allow it to use its port services. The Brazilian authorities adopted a similar decision. In both cases the decision was made in solidarity with the Argentine Republic, which claims sovereign rights over the archipelago.

Graham Botteril, captain of the ferry, has requested that the Montevideo port prefecture send a medical doctor—who is already on his way—to determine whether there are sick men on board and to allow them to disembark for medical attention in a Montevideo hospital.

This was reported by Radio Carve of Montevideo, which added that "once the ferry loads the necessary provisions, it will continue its route toward the Chilean port of Punta Arenas."

According to the report, the ferry will anchor several meters away from the port of Montevideo due to the Uruguayan Government's refusal to allow it to use its port services.

Ferry Transfers 12 Passengers

PY1903025489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0219 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 18 Mar (EFE)—The "Indiana I" ferry, which has not been allowed by the Governments of Uruguay and Brazil to operate a maritime line from the Malvinas Islands, today transferred 12 passengers to another ship on River Plate waters.

The passengers, of whom two are Spanish and two are Uruguayans, were transferred in the "outer harbor" of the port of Montevideo since the "Indiana I" was not allowed to dock there.

The Uruguayan Government has denied port services to the "Indiana I," which has been unable to load three containers of merchandise for the Chilean port of Punta Arenas because of a boycott declared by the Montevideo port workers.

The ferry, which in the last week has been unable to dock in the ports of the continent, was returning to the South Atlantic today.

Graham Botterill, captain of the British- and Japanese-owned ferry, talked on the radio with a reporter from the Uruguayan newspaper EL PAIS and claimed his right to use the port since he is under a Bahamian flag.

Botterill claimed that he had two sick Spanish passengers on board in order to enter the port of Montevideo. He said he made the request "for humanitarian reasons."

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano in turn said that "it must be clear that the freedom to operate in our ports has limitations" and he stressed that "the port of Montevideo is Uruguayan and under Uruguayan sovereignty."

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that "international regulations do not reach the point of forcing our country to receive any ship that wishes to enter Uruguay."

The Uruguayan Government adopted a harder position last week after protesting diplomatically before the British Government for changing the course of the Royal Air Force Tristar airplane which made an emergency landing in Montevideo on 10 February to the Malvinas Islands. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

President Speaks at CRITICA Anniversary

PA2003151889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0209 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at ceremony marking the 23d anniversary of CRITICA newspaper in Maracaibo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear friend (?Macaren) and other directors of CRITICA newspaper, Mr Defense Minister and other representatives of the Armed Forces, Maracaibo Bishop, CRITICA journalists and employees, ladies and gentlemen:

I am deeply pleased to come here as president to meet with the directors, reporters, and other employees of a newspaper in one of the country's most important regions. This region is important not only because of its wealth and because of its inhabitants, but because of its population's perseverance and determination, which is a virtue of all people in Zulia. It is especially important for me now that the economic crisis is hurting the country.

I am pleased to be in Maracaibo to celebrate the 23d anniversary of this newspaper, the result of a great and successful effort. It is now one of Venezuela's best and greatest publishing companies. My presence here is a commitment to Maracaibo and to the publishing business throughout Venezuela.

This newspaper's director recently said he understood the measures responsibly implemented by my government—measures that were taken because we believe that that is the path we should follow if we are to shoulder our responsibilities. The measures were implemented shortly after my administration took office. Expressing his support for the measures, this newspaper's director pointed out, with a deep feeling of patriotism and responsibility, that the government cannot overlook the fact that not only many businesses, but the many dreams of Venezuelan men and women who are deeply committed to doing something useful for the fatherland, for themselves, and for their region may be shattered. The CRITICA director is right when he makes this observation to the government.

The situation is difficult, but it is not desperate or dramatic. Fortunately, our country has great human and natural resources to face the situation. Fortunately, we will solve the critical situation in a relatively short time. But the adjustments we have to make are harsh and especially upsetting for a country not used to a situation of this type.

It is precisely because we believed our unrealistic dreams for too long and because we wanted to keep up appearances that we are now suddenly confronting a very different reality. This reality unfortunately forces us to make decisions that initially adversely affect all segments of Venezuelan society.

We lived through the dramatic events of 27 and 28 February and early March. These events were not the result of the measures we are implementing. These events were the best evidence that it was necessary to face reality once and for all with responsibility and courage. These events are the best evidence of the crisis that we were experiencing and that exploded like all other social movements. The crisis was building steam until it found an opportunity to explode. It is a warning to all Venezuelans. At the same time, it is a lesson for all those in the public and private sectors who had the duty to guide the country.

There is no time to continue fooling ourselves. We are forced to seriously face the country's problems. We could not go on ignoring them even if we wanted to, because the time came when the temporary oil crisis, the huge debt acquired by Venezuela, the crisis in our international reserves, and the lack of operating reserves made us face a dilemma. We could either try to continue the same policy, using up our gold and our last reserves and finding ourselves in 1 or 2 years facing a real tragedy for Venezuela, or we could continue saving our gold as part of our country's reserves and face with courage and resolution the decisions we had to make.

This crisis came as a surprise to all of us. It has moved us all. It is a crisis that Venezuela must face with responsibility, courage, and determination.

The problem of prices has shaken and will continue to shake the entire Venezuelan community during the first 6 months of the year. The government will have to solve difficult situations. We have learned that the press will face difficulties, as it will have to pay more than double for the material it needs. Other national industries, such as the automobile industry, are practically on the verge of bankruptcy due to the large amount of letters of credit.

I could go on mentioning other national industries that will also be affected by this strong blow, which is a consequence of our own lack of vision and of our errors and omissions. This is a truth I will not try to hide from the country.

During my election campaign, I said that I would always speak clearly and frankly and that I would make all Venezuelans face up to their responsibilities. I made this commitment because I know Venezuela well; I know its resources and its ability to solve its problems. That is what we are doing. I am currently facing great problems; however, I have great faith, optimism, and confidence that after an adjustment period, we will pave a clean, open, and wide road toward a bright future. We will begin building a Venezuela on strong foundations, with a clear and exact idea of its economic situation, so that each Venezuelan can face the great tasks and also make the necessary sacrifices.

We have not lost time. Venezuela has made great progress. Fortunately, this crisis has come at a time when our society is quite different from the one we had a few decades ago. Ours is a society of capable, professional men and women with the necessary experience to face and solve these grave problems.

I happen to be Venezuela's president at this time of great difficulties. I am confident, however, because I am fully convinced that the country is on the right path and that Venezuela can cope with the difficult but temporary situation we are now facing.

The Venezuelan businessman knows he can count on an ethical government. The government will not succumb to pressure to favor any one group or sector to the detriment of the population's overall benefit. Businessmen know they can count on a government that will show understanding and will give them the necessary assistance to confront the difficult situation currently affecting several industries.

I can understand the confusion and anguish in the agricultural sector at this time, because it might seem that this weak sector of our national economy will not be able to stand the economic measures, which sharply increase agricultural production costs. That will not happen, because while we face our economic reality and its effects on agriculture, the government is taking action and will continue to take action in the next few weeks. The government will make the necessary adjustments that will enable it to continue—this time on a sound basis, without illusions or distortions of reality—an economic process that will guarantee a better future for all Venezuelan farmers.

We can no longer solve our problems by granting subsidies and by trying to freeze the prices of agricultural products. From now on, the subsidies we provide must be aimed at correcting a specific situation and at making farmers and the agricultural sector face the economic realities of our country's agriculture.

We will thus try to meet the needs of all groups. The middle class is troubled by the fact that each day it becomes increasingly difficult for people to pay rent or to own a home. The government will also try to correct this situation. It will try to protect the gains of each segment of our society.

At the bottom—at the very foundation of Venezuelan society—we have the country's urban and rural workers and its underprivileged classes, such as those who are unemployed and those who have no way to earn a living. We will also look after this group, whose ranks are increasing. However, we will look after their needs by establishing clear goals and by bearing in mind that they are one of Venezuela's most important groups.

History has taught us a dramatic lesson. When poverty overwhelms the downtrodden and gives them absolutely no hope, violence is their only means of responding to an unjust society. Everyone in the community must realize—business and government groups alike—that this is every Venezuelan's responsibility, not just the government's. We cannot continue ignoring this fact. True peace is based on social justice.

If we allow poverty and the ever-increasing gap between the rich and poor to continue expanding and spreading, the entire nation's hopes for well-being could be shattered. My dear friends of Zulia and of CRITICA, this—nothing more and nothing less—is the situation we are facing.

I do not feel impotent or helpless in the face of this crisis, because—as I often said during my election campaign and pointed out even during the outburst of violence that threw us all into confusion—this harsh warning is being heeded by Venezuelan men and women who understand the situation and who have the technical and professional training to take on the challenge and solve the crisis.

The words I have heard here have been an invitation to think aloud and to tell the people of Zulia, who have always faced up to their realities and crises, that the moment has come to build a great Venezuela. I want to tell you that this crisis will be our opportunity to decide on the path we will follow, to confront the sacrifices imposed on us by Venezuela, and to make the amends forced upon us by the reality we are experiencing in a spirit of solidarity.

I have always spoken of a concerted effort, not as a slogan or as a political strategy, but with the deep conviction I have had all along that a solution to Venezuela's problems will not come through good luck, a miraculous rise in the price of oil, or confrontations; a solution to Venezuela's problems will come through

understanding, solidarity, and a concerted effort by every segment of society and the government, through which we will heighten our self-confidence and face our problems and their solution together.

I will continue insisting on a concerted effort. We are opening a path through our concerted effort. It is difficult because there are conflicts in every society. A conflict-free society is unimaginable. However, we have the intelligence and patriotic resolve to attempt to lessen these conflicts to the point where cooperation will be a true means of confronting all the problems ahead of us.

In response to these measures, which are the result of a reality we cannot ignore or cover up with petrodollars, we must not think only of the businesses that must be rescued or of balancing the books of the country's various economic activities. We must also throw ourselves into the task of gradually solving the dramatic, burning problem of critical poverty. The government must devote considerable funds to solving this problem, which is becoming a national emergency. The government will work with determination and will implement programs to involve every sector in production, so that work at all levels of Venezuelan society will pave the way to true solutions for the country.

Corruption will no longer be covered up, not even by political patronage, because political patronage must also disappear under the harsh blows of reality and because we Venezuelans will now keep a careful watch over Venezuelan Government funds and the funds of the state enterprises.

We are therefore faced, dear friends, with a harsh reality that will force us to find ourselves and to take charge of ourselves. Thus, on this newspaper's 23d anniversary, I hope for better days for Venezuela, with this newspaper's features, articles, and news reports showing Venezuela's progress toward its great future. Let's get to work, dear friends. [applause]

Andres Perez Speaks on Economic Problems

PM1603160089 Madrid ABC in Spanish 10 Mar 89 pp 38-39

[Interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by Francisco de Andres in Caracas; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [De Andres] Mr President, what happened in Venezuela last week?

[Perez] I said this at the time, but I would like to expand on it now. I stated that I was not surprised at all at the disturbances, because the social divide in Venezuela has been widening, owing to the economic crisis into which we have been plunged by our own mistakes and the inconsiderate and irrational way in which the industrialized countries have been reclaiming the debt from all the developing countries. A social explosion was not surprising, because the living conditions of large sections of the Venezuelan population have deteriorated. Added to this is a factor which also exists in other developing nations, and this is that hordes of people from the country's interior have settled around the capital in the hope of finding better living and working conditions in the city.

[De Andres] To what extent have the obligations to world banks influenced the deterioration of Venezuela's standard of living?

[Perez] What has happened here is a grave alarm signal for the other countries of Latin America and also a warning for the industrialized nations. We have been warning them for some time of the grave economic and social deterioration resulting from the irrational obligations forced on us. For instance, for the past few years Venezuela has been paying over 50 percent of its exports to service the debt. This is the way a nation has been impoverished.

[De Andres] So do you find no responsibility on the part of your government or the previous governments?

[Perez] It would be very easy to pin all the blame on external factors. We—our society, our governments—have also helped to create this situation. But the paradox is that since we have decided to make all of the corrections necessary to reorientate our economy, both out of our own conviction and because of the international bodies' demands, we have achieved only greater deterioration. Making the adjustments under the conditions imposed on us by repayment of the foreign debt creates a totally uncontrollable situation.

[De Andres] Last week some remarks of yours were interpreted as announcing a suspension of payments...

[Perez] It was clearly a misinterpretation. Perhaps I was not explicit enough when I addressed the foreign press, but I stressed that Venezuela is the only country in Latin America which has strictly carried out not only punctual payment of interest but also repayment of the principal of the debt. I must add that the depletion of Venezuela's foreign currency reserves is such that I cannot not say how we will be able to continue to meet our obligations. It is not a matter of not wanting, but a matter of not being able to do so.

[De Andres] A "technical" moratorium like Brazil's, then?

[Perez] No, not yet. Venezuela is still paying, but we could reach a situation of that kind through lack of resources.

[De Andres] Following the grave events in Caracas and in the interior, have you noted any change or new attitude on the part of the creditor banks?

[Perez] It has been really painful, and we would not have wished to be the first scapegoats, but it has served to draw the Western economic community's attention to the gravity of the situation, when the mass rebellion has occurred in one of the nations with fewest problems, theoretically, in repaying the debt. I was able to note this when President Bush phoned me in order to encourage me, and when IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus' replied to the letter which I sent him as soon as the events in Caracas occurred. These are signs that definite concern is being aroused at the crisis—not just economic but political and social—being experienced by our country. I believe that this year is crucial. The debt problem must be resolved in 1989 or we will enter a very dangerous situation for the Latin American nations, because the current situation is already intolerable.

[De Andres] Mr President, the opposition criticized the fact that the adjustment measures were drastic instead of gradual. Others accuse you of having helped create a psychosis among the people when you spoke of the electric shock effect of your economic policy.

[Perez] We never spoke of a shock; it is untrue. And the measures were not drastic. The first thing that was announced was a substantial 32 percent salary and wage increase in the public sector, even breaking the pledges to the IMF somewhat, and over 40 percent in the private sector. So we began some social measures, and we also announced a plan to compensate the lower income groups. For instance, we raised the minimum wage by 60 percent—a compensatory measure for the most underprivileged groups.

[De Andres] Is it totally ruled out that the mass protest was fomented by Venezuelan or foreign guerrilla groups?

[Perez] It would be an insult to the intelligence to assert that the protest was caused by extremist sectors, but in all our nations there are violent groups which still dream of an illusory revolution, and other subversive movements have also emerged which are of no ideological persuasion but feed off the grave social situation in order to preach violence. When the looting broke out there is no doubt that organized action by these groups to secure political advantage developed.

[De Andres] What role did speculation play in the events?

[Perez] The social situation was already explosive, irrespective of other factors, but the attempted speculation concerning the cost of transport following the rise in the price of gasoline was the spark which ignited the protest. Some transport operators did not accept the 30 percent increase which they were provisionally granted, and raised fares by 200 and 300 percent. The people's reaction was immediate and terrible.

[De Andres] However, the people's anger is no less at the wastefulness and ostentation of some sections of the ruling class or at the drain of capital. There is talk of $30 billion belonging to Venezuelan citizens in U.S. private banks alone—the same sum as the entire national foreign debt. What will your government do to make resources return to the country?

[Perez] The lower paid groups do not notice what you point out. There is no doubt that speculative factors intensify in these crisis situations, but I must say that more conscientious conduct has also developed among business sectors and that I am finding good cooperation on their part.

[De Andres] Will the capital which has drained from Venezuela return?

[Perez] I do not believe in the nationality of capital. Regrettably, capitalism, as such, is not a force susceptible to specifically altruistic or patriotic motives—not just in Venezuela but worldwide. Capitalism operates in accordance with the security afforded its investments, and since this is the framework in which we find ourselves, it is essential to create stable conditions in our nations to induce the lost capital to return.

[De Andres] The high number of casualties during the disturbances has caused surprise outside Venezuela. Do you believe that abuses were perpetrated during the suppression of the protest?

[Perez] Unfortunately the events in Venezuela have been exaggerated. Any casualty is distressing, but the number of fatalities in Caracas—around 250—was the result of the rampage by tens of thousands of people through the capital's shopping areas. Many of them were caused by injuries from glass through breaking show windows, or by brawls among the looters themselves, or by snipers, although it is true that most were due to clashes with the Armed Forces. In view of the scale of the disturbance, the Army's prudent action prevented a greater number of casualties.

[De Andres] For over 3 decades, the Venezuelan Armed Forces have had an impeccably democratic attitude. Some people are now afraid that the latest developments could cause some breach.

[Perez] I feel obliged to say that, on the contrary, the military authorities' exemplary democratic conduct, their obedience to the civil power, and the prudent way in which they used weapons in a really critical situation surprised people very favorably.

Defense Minister Dismisses Coup Possibility

PA1603223989 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Report by Alexis Rosas]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies Domestic Policy Commission headed by Democratic Action [AD] Deputy Paulina Gamuz has questioned Defense Minister Italo

Alliegro Delvalle for 4 hours. Alliegro said it is not true that people are missing as a result of the 27-28 February incidents. He added that he does not know where Deputy Jose Vicente Rangel got information that some individuals took advantage of the circumstances to settle personal feuds. The minister said that if there was excessive violence by Army units, the authorities will investigate each case, but citizens must report the incidents.

The minister said there was no repression by the military, which acted in defense of the legally established state to preserve public order. It was at this point when, getting up from his chair and responding to a question on alleged statements by Jesuit Priest Arturo Sossa, Alliegro reiterated that there is no possibility of a coup.

[Begin recording] [Alliegro] There is no possibility of any type of coup in Venzuela, much less one sponsored by the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

[Reporter] What kind of investigations are being conducted into the rumors about the death of the university rector, wounded ministers, etc? Do you believe someone is behind this?

[Alliegro] I do not know. I do not like to comment on things I do not know about. The state security offices are investigating this wave of rumors, which do not help at all to restore the climate of calmness and confidence the country needs. I believe all Venezuelans must consider this and avoid these types of comments that do not help at all to reestablish the system. We should pay no attention to these types of comments. [end recording]

Paulina Gamuz for AD, Elias Lopez for COPEI [Social Christian Party] and Freddy Munoz for the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] made the following statements regarding the questioning of the minister.

[Begin recording] [Gamuz] The only reason for this questioning is to find out the truth. Deputies have not questioned any of the answers given by the minister, and no deputy has said he is dissatisfied with the minister's answers. The minister has been very clear and honest and has hidden nothing. Should there be any doubts about this, the minister has expressed his willingness to clear up that doubt as soon as possible.

[Lopez] In general, the minister's answers were satisfactory. He promised to clarify and investigate some matters on which he did not have a full answer at this time. We are satisfied with the minister's statements. The important thing is the defense minister responded to the Domestic Political Commission's request to answer questions.

[Munoz] The minister promised to conduct the necessary investigations, and in the event the reported events are confirmed, the appropriate responsibility and punishment would be determined. We hope this will take place. We are going to act as quickly as possible so we can know the full extent of all the incidents. [end recording]

Alliegro will also be questioned on Thursday at the Defense Ministry by the Senate Defense Commission. Military Intelligence Director Vice Admiral German Rodriguez Citraro will also be called before the Domestic Policy Commission.

Government To Request $2-Billion Loan

PA1903003389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Eglee Iturbe de Blanco today reported that the government is asking international banks for a $2-billion loan, of which $600 million will be granted immediately as a stopgap loan to support the national economic plan. The finance minister made this statement after meeting with the minister of coordination and planning, the president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, and the country's debt negotiator to review all debt negotiations and the strategy our country will follow in paying its debt.

It was reported that debt negotiator Dr Edgar Leal will travel to Amsterdam soon to attend an Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] meeting and discuss important issues with all international banks. Although the minister provided no details about the IDB meeting, she pointed out that it is part of Venezuela's continuing bilateral contacts. Minister de Blanco also commented on recent statements by the IDB president that the Latin American economy is stagnant:

[Begin recording] It is evident that the debt is one of the major Latin American economic problems. It is draining important resources that cannot be used to finance development. A permanent solution to the debt problem will hinge on a change in Latin America's development strategy.

I believe the IDB meeting will have a new twist, because the United States has agreed to replenish the IDB's capital. This will allow the IDB to channel more resources to Latin America. [end recording]

The finance minister added that the government also has received a $450-million stopgap loan from the United States.

Guyana

Nation Prepares for Austere Economic Period

FL2003153089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1304 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 18, CANA—As Guyana braces itself for a period of greater austerity, President Desmond Hoyte has been meeting with senior government officials, underscoring the need for more disciplined financial management.

Last Thursday, he met with all ministers, and their permanent secretaries and other accounting officers within the public service, and Friday he had discussions with key personnel of public corporations, regional chairmen and their executive officers and with the accounting officers of the disciplined forces.

The discussions were held at the management training centre of the Guyana Sugar Corporation at Ogle, six miles east of here, and focused on financial management within the context of a programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The government is about to embark on a medium-term Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) a key component of which will be an arrangement with the IMF.

Officials here said on Thursday Hoyte and other top figures in the government told the permanent secretaries that they will not be allowed to exceed certain financial ceilings and they will have to manage the resources at their disposal efficiently.

Among the others making presentations at Thursday's meeting were the Deputy Prime Minister of Planning and Development Haslyn Parrism and Finance Minister Carl Greenidge.

Presentations were also made by the auditor general, the secretary to the treasury, the accountant general, and the chief planning officer, State Planning Secretariat.

Government Fails To End Bauxite Strike

FL1703135389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Guyana's Government has failed to end the strike by bauxite workers. That's despite their mediation efforts between the mine workers' union and the state-owned bauxite company. The Guyana Ministry of Labor tried to bring the two sides together in the 2-week long dispute. The country's chief labor official said that effort failed but the union and bauxite company will continue contracts through the Labor Ministry. The dispute centers around the controversial back-to-work provision which the bauxite industry wants to include in union contracts.

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